ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2004-05

WELCOME HOME WARRIOR — A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

Family Readiness Corner

Update on Iraqi Freedom

RDO Training Emphasizes Taking Care of Soldiers and Families

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

Since 1954.

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ON THE COVER

SSG Angela Barnhardt-Cole, a medic from the 73rd Field Hospital in Tampa, Fla., is welcomed home during the homecoming ceremony for the 320th MP Co. in St. Petersburg, Fla. (PHOTO BY PAUL ADAMS)

Also on the cover: The yellow ribbon symbolizes our commitment to honoring those of our Army Reserve Soldiers who have fallen, those who are missing, and those who are serving around the globe. It will appear on each issue until they all come home.

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BACK COVER

SPC Thomas Relation, 362nd MP Co., Halts a Vehicle at the Traffic Control Point in Balad, Iraq. (PHOTO BY MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND)

SUBMISSIONS · *Army Reserve Magazine* invites articles, story ideas, photographs, and other material of interest to members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Attn: Public Affairs (ARM), 1401 Deshler Street, SW, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000, telephone 404-464-8500 or dsn 367-8500. All e-mail submissions should go to usarmag@usarc-emh2.army.mil. All articles ***must*** be submitted electronically or on disk or CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS · ***Do not write the magazine.*** TPU Soldiers should notify their Unit Administrator or Unit Clerk. Members of the IRR and IMA should contact their Personnel Management Team at HRC-STL, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. AGRs should contact their PMO/PMNCO. Paid subscribers should forward their address change to the Superintendent of Documents, Attn: Mail List Branch SSOM, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Special military distribution recipients may write the editor directly.

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News Briefs

BECOME AN ARMY RESERVE RECRUITER

New Assignments Now Available

Public Affairs Office
Human Resources Command–St. Louis

The Army Reserve's Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program is a growth industry — seeking 400 additional enlisted Soldiers in fiscal year 2005 to fill the ranks of its recruiter positions located at stations throughout the country. Many of the positions are new assignments recently added to the AGR program.

For those Soldiers already in the AGR program, the assignments will be three-year detailed recruiter positions. These Soldiers will retain their original military occupational specialty for future assignments. Soldiers who are newly hired into the AGR recruiter program will hold the recruiter designation as their primary specialty.

Those who are accepted into the AGR Recruiter program will attend the seven-week Army Recruiter Course at Fort Jackson, S.C.

"We are looking for those Soldiers who want to volunteer to take on the challenging mission of those in recruiting," said SFC Gabriel Fierro, recruiting program noncommissioned officer, with the Army Reserve Active Duty Management Directorate at U.S. Army Human Resources Command–St. Louis (HRC–STL). "We work hard to place our volunteers where they want to be."

Fierro served as an AGR detailed recruiter from 1997 to 2000. "I loved it," he said of recruiting. "If you really think about it, how many jobs can you hold where you can go out knowing that you are changing someone's entire life?"

"As a recruiter, you have a direct influence on someone's perspective, future, and ambition," Fierro explained. "It is the greatest feeling when you work with someone and put them into the military because you know how far they can go."

Fierro said one of his greatest memories from recruiting was an invitation he received to put sergeant's stripes on the second person he had brought into the military.

Beyond the intangible benefits, which come with the job, he points out that there are many other benefits to becoming an AGR recruiter. They include:

★ **Promotion potential** — AGR recruiter positions are E-7s or sergeants first class. This gives those who succeed the opportunity to be promoted to this level.

★ **Special Duty Assignment Pay** — $450 is paid monthly to AGR recruiters.

★ **Location Options** — For many Soldiers, recruiting offers many more assignment possibilities (geographically) than they would otherwise have access to.

★ **Reenlistment Bonus** — On 16 Nov 04 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs approved the implementation of a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) for AGR enlisted Soldiers.

Fierro recognized that the hours can be long and the work can be demanding, but being a recruiter is a great place for someone who has served in the field and is now placed in a unique position to help, guide, and mentor others.

"People who have been in theater and know the good stories and the whole truth about the great things our military does can be very effective recruiters," Fierro said. "They can share what they've learned with new recruits. A good recruiter helps someone realize their potential and what they can achieve in the military," he said.

To learn more about how to become a detailed or newly hired AGR recruiter, visit the following pages on the AGR section of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command–St. Louis (HRC–STL) Web site: **https://www.hrc.army.mil**

For current AGR Soldiers:
Visit Army Reserve section of HRC Web site

For Army Reserve Troop Program Unit and Active Army Soldiers:
Visit Army Reserve section of HRC Web site

Not familiar with AGR?
The Active Guard Reserve Program supports and enhances the mobilization readiness of the Army Reserve. AGR Soldiers serve full time and enjoy the same benefits and entitlements as Active Duty Soldiers, including full commissary and post exchange privileges, medical care for themselves and their immediate family, and the opportunity for retirement after 20 years of Active Service. Soldiers serving within the AGR Program are stationed worldwide in positions directly supporting the Army Reserve.

For more information about the AGR program, visit the AGR section of the HRC-STL Web site at **https://www.hrc.army.mil**. Click on Reserve and follow the links to AGR.

RESERVE PROMOTIONS TO BE EXPEDITED

A new Executive Order will now allow the Reserve Component to be more closely aligned with their Active Duty counterparts. This new Order will expedite the current processing of Reserve Officer Appointments. Reserve officers now selected for promotion to the grade of lieutenant colonel or commander and below will enjoy the same speed of approval as the active duty component with authority being delegated to the Secretary of Defense. Additionally, this Executive Order will speed up the

approval process for posthumous promotions. Finally, this Executive Order makes the approval process for Reserve officer promotions nearly identical to that of Active Duty promotions.

ARMY RESERVE TO DEVELOP NEW WEB COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

By Dawn Leijon
CAR Staff Group
Office, Chief Army Reserve

The Army Reserve is changing how it uses the internet. The Strategic Communications team, along with Army Reserve Public Affairs and the Enterprise Services Activity (ESA), are implementing a new Web Communications Strategy which was approved by the Chief, Army Reserve in August, 2003. The goal of the strategy is to improve communications with the Army Reserve's two distinct audiences — internal (Soldiers, families, employees) and external (media, legislators, general public) — by delivering the right information, the right level of detail, the right tools, the right security, and the right navigation for each team.

> "The goal of the strategy is to improve communications with the Army Reserve's two distinct audiences — internal and external."

The strategy involves three phases. The first phase, completed in 2003, was to repurpose **http://www.army.mil/usar** as a "corporate site" delivering strategic messages to external audiences. Phase II, currently in progress, will expand the corporate site to include unit-level information appropriate for external audiences. Phase III, which will be started in 2005, will create a single, password-protected extranet site accessible by all Army Reserve Soldiers, families, and employees. The goal of the extranet is to allow users to share documents, collaborate, access information and communicate up, down and across the organization, any time, from any internet connection.

The Army Reserve will benefit from the new strategy in a number of ways — a more professional and consistent presence on the web; reduced cost of web design and maintenance; increased security and privacy; and better communications with its key audiences. Soldiers and commanders will also benefit by getting a fast and easy way to share private information and post announcements for their units; access to personal information like medical records, training seats, and travel orders; and a powerful search engine that can search the title and content of any Microsoft document posted on the site. More details will be published in upcoming issues of *Army Reserve Magazine*.

ARMY RESERVE FAMILY PROGRAM UPDATE

Army One Source: What is it?

Army One Source is a Soldier and family resource program to help service members and their families run their lives more smoothly.

The service is private and offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It offers a real person to talk to when you need help or an answer to a question; an award winning Web site with online articles, workshops, locators, and self-assessments; pre-paid booklets, audio recordings, and other materials to help get the answers needed in the format wanted; and referrals to resources, services, and support in the community.

For information, visit Army One Source Online at **http://www.armyonesource.com** (user id: army; password: onesource).

ARMY ONE SOURCE UPDATE

The log in process for Army One Source (AOS) has been simplified. All log in questions except unit/location have been removed. Once users identify their military service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps) and their unit, they go automatically to the One Source Web page where they can view content, FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), use financial calculators, links, and participate in the weekly poll.

If users want to go beyond that to interactions such as e-mail a consultant, download materials, participate in a monitored chat, etc., they will be prompted to enter the User ID and password.

After entering the User ID and password, users can either personalize their One Source or go back to the homepage where they will have full interactive access to One Source.

You can access Army One Source 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

→ Online at:

http://www.armyonesource.com
(user id: army; password: onesource)

→ Or by telephone at:

United States toll-free:
800-464-8107

International toll-free:
800-464-81077 / International collect: 484-530-5884

(Use appropriate access codes when placing international calls dialing all digits)

TTY/TDD: 800-346-9188

In Spanish: 800-375-5971

PRICES DROP ON AAFES ISSUE UNIFORM ITEMS

By CPT Diane Weed
HQ AAFES Public Affairs

Prices for most issue uniform items sold at AAFES Military Clothing Sales Stores (MCSS) will be decreasing on October 1.

The annual Defense Supply Center Philadelphia price changes will go into effect and the overall prices for issue items will drop by a little more than one percent. "This year, the temperate battle dress uniform coats and the Air Force men's and women's lightweight jackets are the only items with any significant price increase — and that increase is less than $4 per item," said Hazel Green, DSCP planner at headquarters AAFES.

AAFES never makes a profit on DSCP items since they're always sold at cost. So any price decreases, or conversely increases, are determined by the DSCP and passed along to the customers via AAFES stores.

The DSCP is the sole military supply source for issue merchandise. DSCP items sold by AAFES made up 57 percent of the total MCSS' sales in fiscal year 2003. In addition to DSCP items, AAFES offers higher-quality optional items in order to give customers more choices. On the other end of the spectrum, AAFES offers Exchange Select insignia products that sell for 30 to 60 percent less than name-brand equivalents.

"If you can't find what you are looking for, let your MCSS manager know so they can get the item you need. Our MCSS managers have a great network and cross-level merchandise everyday to take care of their customers' needs," said David Lumbley, Divisional Merchandise Manager for MCSS.

The MCSS concept was established by a Congressional charter for the Air Force in the mid 70s and for the Army in 1981. Today AAFES runs 192 MCSSs: 100 for the Army, 88 for the Air Force, and four for the United States Marine Corps.

WYOMING RESERVE FAMILY FUND AVAILABLE

Since the Gulf War, the Department of Defense has downsized active duty forces some 35 percent. Consequently, there is a greater reliance on the Reserve components. More Reserve members were called up and served in support of this nation in 2003 than in any year since World War II. The Pentagon projects that over the next 3–5 years it will require between 100,000 to 150,000 Guard and Reserve members to support ongoing military operations.

The increasing frequency of these call-ups has been a challenge for some members who make considerably less pay in the military than in their civilian jobs. This has left some of their families in tight financial situations, forcing them to struggle to pay bills while their loved ones fight on behalf of the country.

Army Reserve Ambassador Tom Walsh from Wyoming wanted to support our Soldiers and their families during this time of stress in their lives. In his role as an Ambassador, Walsh is a civilian volunteer who promotes awareness of the Army Reserve and the goals and objectives of the Chief, Army Reserve. He and other Ambassadors are appointed by the Chief of the Army Reserve and serves as his eyes, ears, and voice in their communities.

Being an Ambassador made Walsh sensitive to the fact that there are over 312,000 dependents of citizen Soldiers nationwide who have plenty to worry about when their loved ones are stationed on the frontlines in the Global War on Terrorism. Since he also serves as a Wyoming State Representative, Walsh successfully sponsored a Wyoming Legislature bill to make it easier for Wyoming families to cope while their breadwinner is off to war. The bill created a $5 million trust fund, which will be used to help qualifying families with special financial needs. The bill passed into Wyoming Law during the 57th Wyoming Legislature and demonstrates the public cares for our Reserve members and their families as they adjust to the new reality of modern war, according to Walsh.

The fund is available to all members of the military from Wyoming (including Reserve, Guard, and Active Duty troops). Dependents and military members submit their request for assistance through the Wyoming Military Department and may access the fund for help with car payments, heater repairs, food bills, medical expenses, etc. This fund has already provided over $300,000 to Wyoming families.

Walsh, a proud volunteer member of the 96th Regional Readiness Command says, "it is the right thing to do to support our fighting citizen warriors by helping them with family financial situations during the deployment." During the 58th Wyoming Legislature, Walsh will work to increase the trust fund from $5 million to $10 million.

In appreciation of his support, the Soldiers and airmen of the National Guard Association of the United States recently awarded Walsh the Patrick Henry National Award.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR CITIZEN-WARRIORS

The Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005 (HR 4200/PL 108-375) recognizes the contributions of Army Reserve Soldiers in a number of ways. It modifies enlistment bonus eligibility and amounts for Selected Reserve, Ready Reserve, and prior service Soldiers, offers incentive bonuses for Army Reserve Soldiers converting to Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that are in demand, increases the Imminent Danger Special Pay and the Family Separation Allowance, and provides extended medical care coverage through TRICARE for Soldiers who are released from active duty status.

A summary of these benefits are located on the USAR public website (**http://www4.army.mil/USAR/Soldiers/updates.php**) under "Updates". ARM

WELCOME HOME WARRIORS!

President and Congress Approve Special Recognition Program for Army Reserve Soldiers

Heroes are remembered for an overwhelming display of courage during a significant event in time. Warriors are remembered for their many sacrifices and endurance demonstrated on the battlefield over a period of time. Army Reserve Soldiers who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom earned the title "Warrior Citizen."

To honor them, a long-awaited, well-deserved program for all Army Reserve Soldiers who served in the Global War on Terror was recently approved by the U.S. Congress and President George W. Bush. "The *Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award Program* provides an appropriate, timely, and enduring memento to Soldiers and their families" said COL Mark M. Earley, Army Reserve G-1. "Through this program, we convey in a small way our Nation's gratitude for their selfless service and sacrifice in support of the Global War on Terror."

Each Army Reserve Soldier who has answered the Nation's call will be presented an encased American flag, a specially-designed commemorative coin and certificate, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a 'Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen' flag.

The first units scheduled to receive the award packages will be those first deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom. The Army Reserve expects to award 70,000 Soldiers by the end of the fiscal year. In time, every Army Reserve Soldier who served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom will receive this special recognition award.

These awards will be presented at ceremonies throughout the country upon the Army Reserve Soldiers' return home. The Commander and Command Sergeant Major of each Regional Readiness Command (RRC), Direct Reporting Unit (DRU), and Division (IT/TS) will plan and host the ceremonies for their respective units. The ceremonies will be open to families, employers, co-workers, community leaders, elected officials and the media.

"It is a fitting tribute for a job well done" added Earley.

[Top] Encased American flag.

[Above] Design of the Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Flag.

[Left] Design of the Commemorative Coin, front. Also, used for Lapel Pin.

Welcome Home Warrior — A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

Army Reserve Soldiers who have served in defense of America and for the cause of freedom in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom are coming home in large numbers. For their service, professionalism, and patriotism, America is welcoming home these warriors in a true tribute to their success and commitment.

PHOTO: LINDA A. JELENEWSKI

Family Members of the 94th Military Police Company react after seeing the Soldiers file into the center of the JFK Coliseum in Manchester, N.H. The 94th MP Co., is one of the longest deployed Army Reserve units — 17 months — supporting the Global War on Terror in Iraq.

PHOTO: LINDA A. JELENIEWSKI

Anthony Siraco (L) hands a flag and wind catcher to Tyler Pepin, 3, Allenstown, N.H., as he enters the JFK Coliseum in Manchester, N.H. Pepin attended the 94th Military Police Company's homecoming Aug.4, to see his father, SGT Christopher Pepin, after almost two years deployment in Iraq.

COMING HOME HEROES

94th MP Soldiers Excel During Iraq Deployment

By Linda A. Jeleniewski and David Watson
94th RRC Public Affairs Office

As thunderous cheers erupted throughout the JFK Coliseum in Manchester N.H., Aug.4, the 94th Military Police Company, one of the longest serving units in Iraq, marched in formation onto center stage before 1,000 family members, friends, and politicians.

Their arrival was presaged by several activities which heightened the crowd's desires to see their loved ones. First, dignitaries including New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson; Senator Judd Gregg (R-N.H.); Congressman Jeb Bradley (R-N.H. District One); Congressman Charles Bass, II (R-N.H. District Two); Robert Baines, mayor of Manchester, N.H.; Bishop John McCormack; New Hampshire U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador James A. Normand; MG Dennis J. Laich, commander; CSM Gerald Latham, 94th Regional Readiness Command (RRC); and COL David Gray, commander, 655th Area Support Group (ASG) filed in and took their seats. Then, the New Hampshire Police Association Pipe and Drum Corps marched in playing reels of bagpipe, drum, and fife music, thrilling everyone with their precise movements and sounds. The Vermont National Guard's 40th Army Band added the finishing touches to the homecoming event, as they performed military homage to include Honors to the Nation.

"There are scoreboards located at each end of this stadium. If they were working, they would read: Saddam Hussein–0, 94th MPs–1."

"One hundred sixty-six Soldiers deployed, 166 Soldiers returned," repeated 1SG Dennis P. Mawn, 94th MP Co.'s first sergeant. "Five hundred ninety-six days later, here we are." He went on to highlight the accomplishments of the unit during its time away from home, first to Fort Polk, La., then to Iraq.

The unit was first mobilized in early December 2002, deploying 166 Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Dec. 5, 2002 to April 20, 2003. They completed mobilization training at Fort Drum, N.Y. and performed Law Enforcement Operations at Fort Polk.

On April 20, 2003, the Company deployed from Fort Polk to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon arrival in Iraq, the unit provided direct support to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. In October 2003, the unit transitioned to provide general support to the 82nd Airborne Division.

During their time in Iraq, the unit's Soldiers performed every type of mission Military Police are asked to do: completing over 1,500 combat missions, traveling over 400,000 miles, operating out of 12 different base camps, processing over 3,500 Enemy Prisoners of War, and training over 6,000 recruits of the Iraqi police force.

"There are scoreboards located at each end of this stadium. If they were working, they would read: Saddam Hussein–0, 94th MPs–1," said Laich, as the audience exploded with loud applause and boisterous shouts of approval.

"Although they [94th MP Soldiers] completed over 443,000 miles, their mission is not complete," Laich said. He continued, explaining that once all the Soldiers were re-integrated with their families and their communities, then their mission will be complete. "You've left a huge gap in your families," he added. "A gap you need to fill. It will be a tough road."

CPT David M. Bentley, unit commander of the 94th MP Co., said that 20 months of active duty — 15 in a combat zone — wasn't an easy task. He contended that their greatest accomplishment was not all of the missions completed, but rather the fact that they took care of each other and worked to ensure every Soldier in the unit returned home safely.

As MG Laich awarded Purple Hearts to the five Soldiers that suffered injuries in the Global War on Terrorism, the crowd remained silent as the recipients' families joined the ceremony.

"I'm so proud of him," said Arthur B. Titcomb Jr., of his grandson SPC Justin B. Titcomb, as Justin's father, Arthur B. Titcomb III stood by and watched with heightened emotions as his son received his decoration.

Originally scheduled to redeploy to their home station in April 2004, the unit's deployment was extended for 120 days due to a surge in enemy activity that critically severed the flow of supplies to Soldiers still fighting in Iraq. The unit was tasked to provide security to civilian and military logistical convoys moving supplies to Soldiers. During the extended 120 days, the company completed 43 missions and traveled an additional 40,000 miles.

Family members waited impatiently throughout the coliseum, as the 94th RRC Color Guard retired the colors, nervously waiting to be reunited with their loved ones.

"I was incredibly pleased to hear that the members of the 94th Military Police Company, based out of Londonderry, were finally back on American soil," said Congressman Jeb Bradley as he addressed the audience. "The sacrifices of the men and women of the 94th and their families waiting at home are truly heroic."

MAGIC MOMENTS

439th Quartermaster Company Returns Home after 15 Months in Iraq

By Eric J. Hurwitz
94th RRC Public Affairs Office

439th Quartermaster Company Soldiers may have driven petroleum in Iraq, but what "fueled" them even more was the 800-plus family and friends greeting them late at night at a welcome home ceremony on Aug. 4, at the New Haven Athletic Center in New Haven, Conn.

After nearly 15 months and two extensions in Iraq, the 439th QM Co., marched proudly into the Athletic Center to the melodious tones of the 94th Army Band and the overwhelming roar of the audience. It was the moment everyone in the building was waiting for, as Soldiers and families could barely wait to get through the ceremony and into each other's arms. Smaller ceremonies also took place around the same time with 439th QM Co. Detachment One and cross-leveled 947th Quartermaster Company Soldiers in Brockton, Mass., and Portsmouth, N.H., respectively.

At the New Haven event, Virginia Plummer was alone and crying, finally seeing her 58-year husband Norman, a grandfather, back from the deployment. "I'm so happy," she said, before quickly going silent.

A few feet away from Plummer, Kailee O'Rourke jumped up and down, saying "Yea, yea!" many times as she held a sign as big as her, welcoming her father, SPC Craig O'Rourke, back home.

Russell Easton proposed to SPC Tara Dwyer at the 439th QM Co. welcome home ceremony. She said "Yes!"

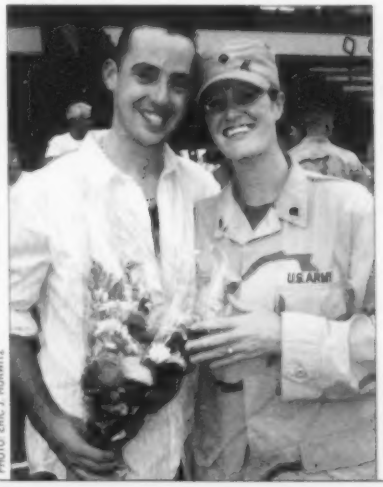

PHOTO: ERIC J. HURWITZ

Four-year-old Kailee O'Rourke welcomes home her father, SGT Craig O'Rourke.

PHOTO: ERIC J. HURWITZ

During the ceremony, 439th QM Co. Company Commander Timothy Consedine looked tired, but overcame the long day and deployment by spiritedly saying, "Thirteen million gallons of fuel (used) and 17 months away set us apart from the rest. I am proud of serving with these guys!"

BG Bruce Zukauskas, 94th Regional Readiness Command deputy commanding general, said, "They pumped fuel day and night and did it under extreme conditions, at 140, 150 degrees... We are all proud of what you did."

"Never forget you are freedom's guardian's," added Zukauskas, looking directly at the entire 439th QM Co.

The 439th QM Co.'s mission in Iraq was to receive, store, and transfer bulk petroleum to divisional and non-divisional units. They initially deployed to Fort Drum, N.Y., in February 2003, with an ultimate destination to Iraq shortly afterwards. With the two extensions, the 439th QM Co. represents one of the longer Army Reserve deployments. In the past two years, the 439th QM Co. also transferred several Soldiers to assist other deployed units supporting the war against terrorism. They include the 325th Transportation Co., of Brockton, Mass., the 804th Medical Brigade, of Ayer, Mass., the 368th Engineer Battalion, of Londonderry, N.H., and the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion, of East Windsor, Conn.

At the welcome home ceremony, politicians were on hand to support the 439th QM Soldiers, including Senator Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), Frank Rowe representing Senator Jospeh Lieberman (D-Conn.), Stanley Welch representing Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), and K. Robert Lewis, representing Congressman Rob Simmons (R-Conn.).

"I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of you," said Dodd. "I know this has been a difficult time. Know that your commitment and duty to your country was performed with distinction. Your return speaks to tremendous sacrifices. Welcome home!"

After the ceremony, family and friends sprinted in Carl Lewis form to be with their loved ones. Russell Easton immediately proposed to SPC Tara Dwyer (she said "yes"). Kailee O'Rourke happily put down her welcome home sign to be embrace her dad. SGT David Bassett found a relatively quiet corner of the Athletic Complex to be with his wife and seven-month-old baby. He seemed at peace, contrary to the instability he experienced overseas.

"It's great to be home, I really can't explain it," said Bassett. "It was tough over there, but we expected it. Glad to be home!"

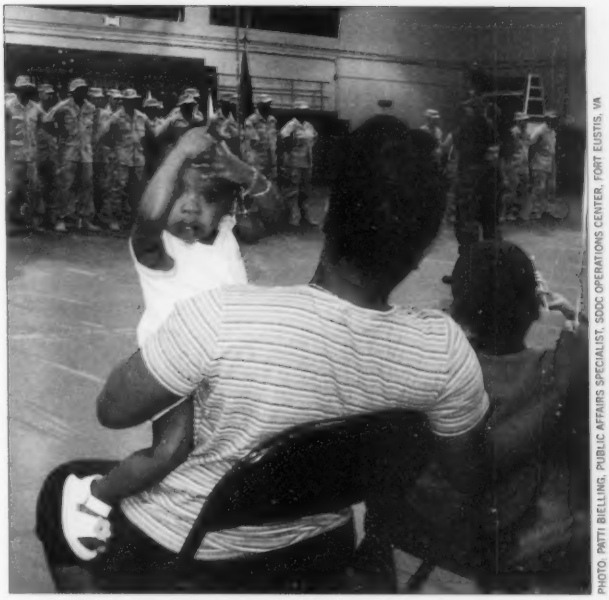

PHOTO: PATTI BIELLING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, SDDC OPERATIONS CENTER, FORT EUSTIS, VA

Back home formation: The 1181st Transportation Terminal Battalion and the 91st Cargo Documentation Detachment stand in formation June 7 at a formal return ceremony at Fort Eustis, Va.

SWEET HOMECOMING FOR PORT OPERATIONS UNITS

By Patti Bielling, Public Affairs Specialist
SDDC Operations Center, Fort Eustis, Va.

Homecoming was sweet for the Soldiers in two Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) transportation units who spent a year working port operations in Kuwait.

Members of the 1181st Transportation Terminal Battalion, Meridian, Miss., and the 91st Cargo Documentation Detachment, Fort Eustis, Va., were welcomed back home in a formal ceremony June 7. The Soldiers are among 1,900 Reserve Soldiers mobilized to support SDDC in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After the ceremony, family and friends sprinted in Carl Lewis form to be with their loved ones.

The two units helped manage and direct the movement of more than 149,000 pieces of cargo on more than 150 vessel loads at the port of Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait, according to SFC John Temple, the 91st's commander.

Among those greeting the returning Soldiers was COL Robert Askey, chief of SDDC's Plans, Readiness, and Mobilization Directorate.

"These Soldiers are the first from SDDC, active or reserve, to pull the full 365 days boots-on-the-ground in theater," said Askey.

"They traveled far from home and family to serve their country. Their role was invaluable to mission success."

Families were happy to see their returning Soldiers.

Jeannette Williams and her family drove 14 hours from Meridian, Miss., to greet her husband, SFC Milford Williams.

"I was six months pregnant with Mia when he was mobilized," Jeannette Williams said. "On the night of June 3, the unit left for Kuwait and I had Mia the next morning."

One-year-old Mia Williams quickly became reacquainted with her father, who saw her for the first time when he returned home on leave in August 2003.

Also on hand to greet the Soldiers was Mabel Taylor-Temple, wife of the 91st commander.

Taylor-Temple, an Army Reserve Soldier who has served in Afghanistan, knows first-hand the importance of the Army's mission in Southwest Asia.

"I know that the Iraqi people appreciate us there, but it seems like the American people only see the bad things," she said. "We have built schools for girls in Afghanistan, and we're feeding the people and distributing items to children in Iraq. I know in my heart that what we're doing is good, and we do it well."

As the Soldiers made the final steps to return to civilian life, an 1181st member, MAJ Wilmer Moore, summarized the unit's work in the past 18 months and 17 days.

"The 1181st was the first Reserve unit mobilized in the first Gulf War," said Moore, a Reserve officer who was assimilated into the SDDC as a public affairs officer. "The unit is known as being one of the most effective within SDDC.

"Four days after 9/11 we were loading ships in Charleston, S.C., and during this time we had a pretty good feeling it wouldn't be too long before we received the call for a longer period," said Moore, who in civilian life is the director of housing and residence life at Meridian Community College.

The 1181st conducted SDDC's first load out for Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force out of San Diego in March 2002.

"We have built schools for girls in Afghanistan, and we're feeding the people and distributing items to children in Iraq. I know in my heart that what we're doing is good, and we do it well."

"This has been a long and hard deployment, but it just validated us as one of the best, if not the best, port operators in the nation," said Moore.

Both the 1181st and 91st became part of history March 2 when they moved cargo simultaneously on five Military Sealift Command ships at Ash Shuaiba. The ships included four Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-on/Roll-off vessels, USNS Sisler, USNS Fisher, USNS Red Cloud, and USNS Mendonca and the Fast Sealift Ship USNS Antares.

Three of the Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-on/Roll-off vessels were discharging and a fourth was loading. This sets a record for the number of Nimitz-size ships actively working at any port at one time.

In addition, the USNS Antares was discharging cargo at the port.

The shipments were part of more than 300 vessel operations conducted by the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command between December and May. The shipments are the biggest since World War II.

CARING FOR THE INJURED

912th Forward Surgical Team Treats Sick and Injured

By Eric J. Hurwitz
94th RRC Public Affairs Office

For a small unit, the 912th Medical Forward Surgical Team (FST) had one big mission and one large homecoming ceremony.

The 912th deployed 17 Soldiers in mid-February 2003, spending over a year — including one 180-day extension and one 120-day extension — supporting the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq. Attached to the 1st Armored Division, they remained in theater longer than any other Reserve or Active Army FST.

The extended time away made the welcome home ceremony that much sweeter. The 912th FST Soldiers returned home to Worcester, Mass., on July 24 to approximately 400 enthusiastic family members and friends. Arriving nearly an hour earlier than expected from Fort Dix, N.J., families and friends reunited before the official reunion ceremony.

[Right] Home at Last. SPC Alexander Zale, 912th Forward Surgical Team (FST) Soldier, is all smiles after returning home from Iraq at the Worcester Reserve Center. Hugging him is Zale's mother, Ellen and his girlfriend Aimie Costello, of South Hadley, Mass. (PHOTO: ERIC J. HURWITZ)

ZALE

"It's wonderful, just wonderful," said 912th Commander COL Leanne Chabior 57, alongside a smiling husband, Richard.

"We've been waiting for this moment," said Richard Chabior. "It is wonderful!"

The 912th FST's mission in Iraq was to provide a rapidly deployable urgent, initial surgical service forward in a Division's Area of Operations.

Staffed with highly trained clinical personnel, the 912th FST has the capacity of sustaining "golden hour," a treatment of casualties for up to 36 continuous hours, in the combat theater of operations before retrofitting and re-supplying. While in Iraq, the 912th FST gave mostly surgical care for life, limb, and eyesight, treating more than 1,800 patients between August and September 2003 alone.

"There's no way to describe it — I've been a nurse in (civilian) hospitals, but never saw it like that — the medical support we provided day after day" said CPT Lynda Perry, 55, an operating room nurse. "I never saw that many injured people in (civilian) hospitals."

The 912th FST consists of surgeons, anesthetics, nurses, an operations officer, senior sergeant (or technicians), and licensed practical nurse type of medics.

During the formal ceremony, BG Dean Sienko, commander of the 804th Medical Brigade, thanked the 912th FST for its service.

"Not only did you take care of each other, you took care of other people," said Sienko. "You did this very well."

Sienko added, "There is nothing more noble than taking care of our sons and daughters in harm's way... You honorably served and accomplished your mission, and you join the legion of American heroes who have served their nation honorably and well."

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT TRAINING HELPS SOLDIERS, SPOUSES

By Pam Garrison
70th Regional Readiness Command

The couple sat facing, staring into each other's eyes, a square yellow card held by the husband. He was explaining his point of view while she strained not to interject and didn't succeed. He tapped her gently on the nose with the card. Then they burst out laughing at their difficulty in trying to communicate in this fashion.

Obviously, this structured method of discussion was not what they were accustomed to.

"I believe our MET training is an outstanding opportunity for couples to reintegrate and reform their marriage commitment and skills after a long deployment."

This speaker-listener exercise was part of the 70th Regional Readiness Command's Marriage Enrichment Training (MET) held in Portland, Ore., the weekend of Sept. 24–26. The course, which is based on the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP), is a part of the Concept Plan for Soldiers being demobilized. It is a high priority for Soldiers and their spouses in hopes of "assisting them with reintegration, reunion, and communication which will help them more effectively deal with issues," according to a recent 70th RRC memorandum of instruction.

"I believe our MET training is an outstanding opportunity for couples to reintegrate and reform their marriage commitment and skills after a long deployment. The Army Reserve is dedicating large resources to provide a wonderful weekend retreat," said Chaplain (COL) Berris Samples, command chaplain, 70th RRC.

"Very few couples have ever received marriage enrichment and communication skills education and our PREP program is the best in the country. My goal is for every eligible couple in the 70th to receive benefit from this," Samples added.

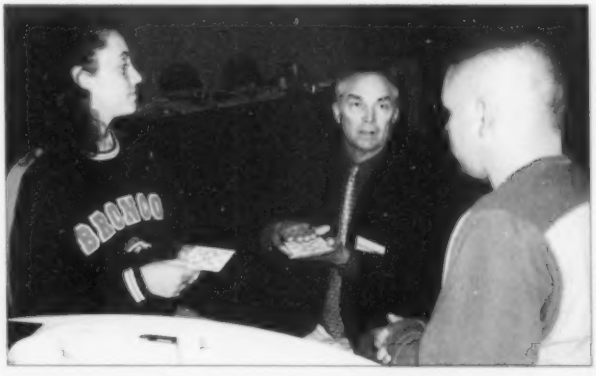

PHOTO: PAM GARRISON

Sarah and Karson Collins participate in a speaker-listener exercise with Chaplain (COL) Berris (Bear) Samples, 70th RRC chaplain during the command's Marriage Enrichment Training.

All demobilized Soldiers are eligible to attend the course which is paid for by the Army. A similar course elsewhere would cost a minimum of $500. A MET is scheduled once a month within the 70th Regional Readiness Command three-state area.

All demobilized Soldiers are eligible to attend the course which is paid for by the Army.

Eleven couples attended this MET, ranging from engaged couples, to recently married couples, those who had been married for some time and one couple who had been married 35 years.

All of the Soldiers attending had recently returned from tours in Iraq with the 671st Engineer Company of Portland, Ore., and one from A Co., 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

One of the three engaged couples that attended, Catherine Carnochan and Greg Edwards, have been engaged for a little over a year. They both felt that what they had learned would help them in their upcoming marriage.

"I was skeptical, at first," Edwards said. "I knew it was something I should do, but that I really don't want to do; but now I've come and it has a lot of value I didn't expect."

How well it will work, according to Carnochan, will "depend on the couple, how much they are willing to work. People who come to the course can take this and use it to their advantage to build a strong relationship."

Sam and Lori Caraballo were recently married, after the 671st returned from the desert.

"I am grateful that I came and can see that other couples have the same communication problems. Some days I feel that we are the only couple that fights the way we do…that we are abnormal," Sam said.

"We're still getting to know each other," Lori said. "His going to Iraq forced us to communicate in a different way to resolve issues. Now that we're face-to-face again, what we had become accustomed to has turned 180 degrees!"

"This is definitely a beginning," Sam said. "If we take two out of six lessons and apply them in the next three fights, it will make a huge improvement."

"This will force us to drop our weapons," Lori said, "and get to the heart of the other person."

Brenda and Richard Karr have been married 8 years and have "three kids and a dog," according to Richard.

He found the training informative and fun and it facilited good communication skills. It also had the plus of leaving the kids with his mother-in-law and having a weekend away with his wife.

Brenda has a master's degree in counseling and psychology, and already knew some of the PREP principles.

About the course, Richard said that there's always something more to learn — a catch phrase printed on the cover of the PREP workbook.

But in reality, this very together couple still wanted to work on some issues.

"She's always paid the bills," Richard said. "When she messes up, all I can do is 'yell.' I want to help; I want a more proactive role."

"I had to stop making assumptions (in the speaker-listener exercise) and listen to what he's saying," said Brenda.

Jim and Rosalyn Fleming have been married 35 years. Their kids are grown and on their own. It's just the two of them at home.

When asked if after 35 years of marriage there was anything left to learn from such a course, Jim said that it was very enlightening and that they will take the information and use it to their advantage to build a stronger relationship.

"You think you've got it all down," Rosalyn said. "You don't argue, you don't fight, you do everything together, but you don't talk. You do everything for others, but you need to take time for each other.

"Since Jim came back from Iraq, I've decided we're going to spend one weekend a month doing something together, whether walking on the beach holding hands or talking. It's a commitment because if you're home, you're distracted by all the things you think you should be doing. Here at MET, that can't happen. It's like it was for us 37 years ago (when they were dating).

"Friendship," she said. "It all comes back to the need to keep the friendship and the friend together. We don't take the time to just talk — don't look at each other and talk without talking about work, the house, kids, cats and it's just the two of us! It's kind of scary! We found we had to take off our glasses to better see each other because you can't see each other close up with bifocals!"

The parting wisdom for the couples from MET is that you can't 'have it all,' but you can choose to cherish and nurture what you want most in your marriage. It's your choice how much you will put into your relationship. ARM

Family Readiness Corner

ARMY RESERVE FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE: BUILDING A 'READY' TEAM

By Steve Yearwood
AFTB/AFAP Program Manager
81st RRC

It is vital for the Army to maintain high quality of life standards and communicate this commitment to Soldiers and families.

The Army Reserve Army Family Team Building (AFTB) mission is to provide resources that contribute to the development of ready Soldiers and resilient families. Our goal as a team is to fully implement AFTB Training opportunities for Army Reserve families. AFTB Program Managers stand ready to assist whenever needed.

We recognize that family satisfaction with Army Reserve life relates directly to Soldiers' performance, readiness, and retention. In support of this, we emphasize family awareness and responsibility by offering Army Family Team Building courses. AFTB students learn critical elements required to build cohesive teams with the family member structure. Professional Growth and leadership development opportunities, such as Instructor Training and the Master Trainer Course, are also accessible to strengthen the AFTB process. AFTB training can be completed on line at **http://www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org** or by requesting classroom instruction through your program manager.

AFTB continues to be the focal point for preparing families for the challenges of the 21st Century, and volunteers are essential to maintaining a successful AFTB Program. If you would like to become an AFTB volunteer, please contact your AFTB Program Manager for details.

ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is the Army's formal forum to address critical Army Family issues. It is vital for the Army to maintain high quality of life standards and communicate this commitment to Soldiers and families. The process solicits input directly from grassroots constituents, and these representatives must determine which issues are the most important to their quality of life. Commanders and Army

leaders' value and act on the information that AFAP provides about the needs and expectations of Soldiers and families.

AFAP focuses on providing Soldiers and families a forum that alerts the Army leadership to quality of life concerns, and administers a formal process to work toward resolving the concerns at the lowest possible level. The Army Reserve holds an annual AFAP conference to review issues affecting the Army Reserve. Those issues deemed of highest priority by delegate work groups are briefed directly to the Chief of Army Reserve (CAR), along with recommendations for resolution and voted on by the entire body of conference delegates. Upon approval by the CAR, issues are then forwarded to and integrated in the DA AFAP process, when applicable.

If you have an issue and would like to submit it, please contact the program manager nearest to you for assistance.

ARMY RESERVE FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE REACHES OUT TO THE FAMILIES OF MOBILIZED IRR/IMA/UAU/IA SOLDIERS

By Anderia Georgia
Program Manager
Army Reserve IRR/IMA/UAU/ IA

On August 1, 2002 the Army Reserve Command formally established the IRR/IMA Family Program Office.

It's 5:30 p.m. and without any prior notice, a telegram is delivered to the door informing you that your country needs you immediately to help fight the Global War on Terrorism. The message further states that you are being called to active duty and expected to report in 30 days. When the shock begins to wear off, questions begin to formulate in your mind. Prioritizing the concerns can be overwhelming. Concerns such as family, current job, finances, and medical plans begin to sink further and further into your mind. You start to wonder where to begin. You wonder how your family's needs will be met during your military separation. These concerns are real. But help is available!

Recent publicity of the involuntary mobilization of 5,600 Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers has given the Army Reserve Family Program Office the opportunity to build awareness of a program already in place to assist the families of mobilized Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA), USARC Augmentation Unit (UAU), and Individual Augmentee (IA) Soldiers. On Aug. 1, 2002, the Army Reserve Command formally established the IRR/IMA Family Program Office and assigned it the responsibility of providing information on benefits, entitlements, resources, and referrals to the families of mobilized IRR/IMA Soldiers. Since that time the Army Reserve Family Program Office has taken on the responsibility of assisting the families of the UAU Soldiers. Most recently the Family Program Office began assisting the families of the 5,600 involuntary mobilized IRR Soldiers.

The IMA Soldier may mobilize with a unit miles away from his/her family. Like the families of the IRR Soldier, they too are often left behind without a sense of connection to a local unit for assistance or information.

You are not alone if you find yourself asking what an IRR, IMA, UAU, or IA Soldier is and how his or her mission is different from any other Soldier's mission. The Army Reserve Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldier is not associated with a unit nor does the Soldier train with a unit. The IRR Soldier is held in a manpower pool, readily available to be mobilized individually to fill a critical Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) in a mobilizing unit, depending on the needs of the Army. The IRR Soldier may have previously served in either the Active Component, Army National Guard, or a position in the Army Reserve and may be fulfilling time remaining in a mandatory Military Service Obligation (MSO). Because the Soldier may mobilize with a unit that is located miles away from the family, there is no connection to a local unit to provide assistance or information.

The Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) may be a part of a Reserve Troop Program Unit (TPU), Active Component Unit, Selective Service System, or a Federal Emergency Management Agency position for training purposes, depending on the Soldier's Military Occupational Specialty. Although the IMA Soldier may train with a unit they are still mobilized individually to meet the immediate needs of the Army. The IMA Soldier may mobilize with a unit miles away from his/her family. Like the families of the IRR Soldier they too are often left behind without a sense of connection to a local unit for assistance or information.

The U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) Augmentation Unit (UAU) and Individual Augmentee (IA) Soldier is the way of the future for the Army Reserve Soldiers. These Reserve Soldiers are used to fill positions that augment or fill shortages in mobilized Reserve Units or Active Army Units. The UAU has implemented a plan that will change the way that IA Soldiers are mobilized in the future. The IA Program consists of a volunteer pool of drilling Reserve Soldiers that are deployable and ready to mobilize when the need arises.

Individual Augmentee Soldiers will be assigned to the UAU once they receive a DA alert or mobilization order.

The commonality among the IRR/IMA and IA Soldiers is that they mobilize individually and not with a unit. Many of the families of IRR/IMA/IA Soldiers have never experienced a long term separation from their loved one, had a need for a Military ID card, or had a need to access information on dependent benefits and services provided by the Family Program Office. During Desert Storm the Army Reserve Command realized that the IRR/IMA families needed better access to information on their benefits and entitlements. After Sept. 11, 2001, it became evident that an available resource for the families was critical to Soldier Readiness. A Soldier must feel comfortable leaving his/her family in order to focus on the military mission.

Specialized assistance and communication is important because of their unique challenges. Mobilization packets are mailed to each Soldier's home of record. The packets include information on TRICARE, Red Cross, ESGR, the Family Program Office, and other important resources. Most of the IRR/IMA/IA Soldiers do not reside near a Military facility. However, remote locations do not necessarily equal a lack of resources. Many resources are accessible on line or by calling a toll free number. The information provided to the IRR/IMA/UAU/IA families is representative of services available throughout the United States and not just in one local area. What works to meet a family's needs in Idaho may not be relevant to a family in Georgia. Sorting through the numerous available resources is the job of the specialists who provide the families information and referrals from the IRR/IMA/UAU staff of the Army Reserve Family Program Office located at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Ga. in the United States Army Reserve Command building.

The assistance provided by the IRR/IMA/IA staff of the Army Reserve Family Program Office does not end when requested information is provided. Follow-up and periodic contacts are made with the designated family member on a regular basis. We stay in touch with whomever the Soldier designates. For example single Soldiers may identify a parent or a sibling as our primary point of contact. Our office is available as their point of contact for assistance with information and available resources throughout their Soldier's mobilization. Additionally, a list of the Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Family Program Directors, Direct Command Family Program Coordinators and Specialists located throughout the United States is provided to identify a link to local assistance if needed. This ongoing assistance helps Army Reserve families maintain morale and a sense of connectivity during difficult times. The information and assistance empowers them with the tools they need to access new resources that can help them during times of separation from their Soldier.

The assistance provided to the families of IRR/IMA/IA Soldiers continues throughout mobilization and when the Soldier is released from active duty (REFRAD) a packet is sent to the families with useful information about homecomings and emotional expectations. An exit survey is also provided. The surveys received from the Soldiers and Families are utilized to improve the overall program and the assistance provided.

Since the program started over, 10,000 mobilization packets have been mailed and over 10,000 contacts by phone, e-mail, and mail have been made to the Families of mobilized IRR/IMA/IA Soldiers. The IRR/IMA/IA staff of the Army Reserve Family Program Office continues to shift gears in preparation for Fiscal Year 2005. The information provided to families is continuously analyzed to ensure that the information provided to the families is relevant and comprehensive. The IRR/IMA/IA staff of the Family Program Office strives to provide the best available customer service to the families of mobilized IRR/IMA/IA Soldiers.

Accurate contact information is critical to the success of the Family Program Office effort to assist families.

As the Army Reserve Family Program Office looks to the future, every effort to reflect the Expeditionary Force Concept is applied. If an Army Reserve family is close to an Air Force, Navy, Marine, or National Guard military installation and they would like to participate in a Family Readiness Group with other spouses separated from their Soldiers, every effort is made to coordinate a connection to a Family Readiness Group regardless of military affiliation. Additionally, some families have initiated support groups within a region composed of the multi-components in an effort to support each other based on location rather than military affiliation. Each branch of the military has a specific mission. However, the families left behind share commonalities. They all want their Soldiers home safe and all strive to maintain and juggle additional responsibilities as a result of a separation through mobilization.

Accurate contact information is critical to the success of the Family Program Office effort to assist families. Initial communication is most effective when we can reach the family with information on benefits and entitlements prior to the Soldier leaving. Please call the Family Program Office directly at 1-866-345-8248 if you need to provide new address information. The updated information can also be provided on the questionnaire provided in the mobilization packet. The IRR/IMA/IA Army Reserve Family Program Office is staffed to receive phone calls daily from 7:00am EST until 5:00pm EST Monday thru Friday. We are also available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 8:00 EST. The IRR/IMA/IA staff of the Army Reserve Family Program Office strives to provide the best available customer service. We welcome your calls and look forward to assisting you. You are our most precious resource and we want to be yours! ARM

Update on OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

N.Y. ARMY RESERVE UNIT TO TRAIN IRAQI ARMY, SECURITY FORCES

The U.S. Army Reserve's 98th Division (Institutional Training) is deploying to Iraq to take the lead in a historic training venture. The Reserve division will accelerate the training of the new Iraqi Army and provide command and control as part of the Army's new Foreign Army Training Assistance Command or FA-TRAC.

The FA-TRAC concept began as an Army Reserve initiative to fill a U.S. Army need for creating a trained and ready, deployable organization for missions such as this.

The division, commanded by MG Bruce Robinson, will greatly expand and expedite the training of Iraqi soldiers and security forces that will more quickly lead to a stable and sovereign nation.

According to Robinson, "this is what these types of units do best." The Army Reserve's Institutional Training Divisions have historically trained and prepared American Soldiers in warfighting skills and battlefield specialties.

Robinson added, "Now the 98th will use their expertise to train Iraqi soldiers. This is a significant step in helping the Iraqi's become self-sufficient in their own defense and security operations."

Once in Iraq, the deployed Soldiers will be headed by the 98th's Assistant Division Commander for Operations, BG Richard Sherlock, who will also serve as the deputy commanding general of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team.

According to Sherlock, "the unit will help speed up the nation-building process. Our Soldiers are looking forward to this opportunity in assisting the Multi-National Security Transition Command–Iraq and in helping build an Iraqi Army capable of supporting a stable, sovereign Iraqi nation."

Instead of performing their normal mission of expanding the Army training base at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and other sites in the U.S., the division will deploy over 700 of the 98th Division's Soldiers to Baghdad and other locations throughout Iraq. During the next two months, the "Iroquois Warriors" of the 98th Division, as they are known, will start augmenting the current forces in Iraq and begin training the Iraqi Army and other Iraqi security forces.

The Army Reserve Soldiers will man most of the 39 Advisory Support Teams (AST) that mentor, coach, and advise units of the Iraqi Regular Army and the Iraqi Intervention Force. Some of the ASTs will continue to be provided by the U.S. Marine Corps and the Australian Army but will transition to 98th Division Soldiers in the future.

The division will also provide command and control for the ASTs, which will be stationed throughout Iraq. They will conduct "train-the-trainer" non-commissioned officer and officer education courses in conjunction with NATO's training efforts. They will also conduct military skills courses and provide Basic Training support for the Iraqi National Guard.

"This approach differs from how support was provided in the past because the 98th will provide a unit-based solution," according to COL Bill Clegg, Assistant Division Commander for Support, 98th Division. Over the past year, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have been doing this training on a limited basis, for different length tours of duty. The 98th's unit-based support to the mission will help reduce the turbulence caused by the constant rotation of troops. The division will provide Soldiers for one year and then, if necessary, turn the mission over to another Institutional Training Division in 2005.

Formed after WWI, the 98th was last deployed during WWII to the Pacific. The 98th Division is headquartered in Rochester, N.Y., and has units located throughout New York, New Jersey, and New England. The division has more than 3,600 Army Reserve Soldiers and conducts various training courses for both active-duty Army and Reserve Soldiers, including summer training for United States Military Academy Cadets.

ANACONDA FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO TANK FIRE

By MSG Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Acquisition Team
U.S. Army Reserve Command

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq — As the first notes of the fire alert sound from the ERC's (Emergency Response Center) horn, firefighters react — newspapers and magazines about "life back in the other world" are dropped, conversations stop in mid-sentence, Soldiers suit-up into firefighting gear, and the engine in the fire truck of the 475th Engineer Detachment starts. Within sixty seconds after the alarm sounded, the truck exits the door.

"While we were enroute we were getting information about the ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival) of the EOD (Explosives-Ordnance Detachment) and QRF (Quick Response Force)," said SGT Jamel Linzey, 475th Engineer Detachment, from Creston, Iowa. Linzey is one of several Soldiers who were cross-leveled into the 475th from other Army Reserve units. Before mobilization, Linzey was assigned to the 907th Engineer Detachment from Yakima, Wash.

After learning more about the nature of the emergency — an M1 Abrams Tank had caught fire while being towed outside of Anaconda's perimeter — Linzey knew the firefighting team would have to await the additional support required.

As soon as the Soldiers towing the unoccupied tank noticed it smoking, they wisely abandoned the tow vehicle. Both tanks contained full combat loads of high explosive rounds, as well as .50 caliber and 7.62 rounds.

"We had to wait on EOD because the rounds were cooking off," Linzey said, "and we needed the QRF because we were going outside the wire." The current threat in Iraq dictates any and all activity outside a U.S. or Coalition compound must be supported by an appropriately measured force protection team. The QRF teams respond to potential threats and force protection situations local to their assigned posts.

"We could see the dense black smoke and hear the explosions," Linzey said. After the QRF arrived, they sandwiched the ERC's response elements — the fire truck (pumper), the water resupply tanker, and the medical support van — for safer movement to the site about 500 meters outside the north gate here. Two Cobra rotary wing gunships also circled overhead, providing aerial

SSG and 475th Engineer Detachment Fire Chief Richard Diephuis surveys the scene with a gate guard before deploying his team outside the perimeter of LSA Anaconda.

PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

reconnaissance, and prepared to employ fire support if necessary.

For today's Army, the practical theory, intent, and mindset of firefighting in a military uniform is no different from fighting a fire back home, so the Soldiers' attitudes don't vary much from center.

"Our goal is to be out the door in less than one minute,"...
"That's why we keep our duty crews in 'hot bunks'...
so they can respond quickly."

"The two things we always do are save lives and protect property. We knew there wasn't a life safety issue here, so we kick into the preserve mode," Linzey said. "We had two tanks — one towing the other, with the towed tank involved (on fire). The point of contact from the 81st Brigade requested we save the first tank, so that's what we did."

Most tankers "live" in their tanks and have excess loads of personal gear, equipment, and food and water fastened onto the vehicle's armored skin. The internal heat had ignited much of the external baggage, so the external fires aboard the Abrams were quenched first. The proximity of the two tanks also demanded a quick release and clearance before the rear motor compartment of the lead tank sustained damage.

"We had to re-size the scene three times," said SGT Dwayne Lizama. "We did an initial knockdown, then a surround and drown. We were able to use the lead tank as cover and protection as the rounds were cooking off in the towed tank. Then we unhitched them."

Firefighters from the Army and Air Force prepare to respond to a fully involved M1 Abrams Tank.

PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

"SGT Lizama had the idea to unhitch the tanks and move the lead tank to safety," Linzey said, "so we had a base team keep the fire off me and CPL Gintner while we unlatched it. The 81st gave us a driver who moved it away. Once it was away, we were able to knock down the one that was fully involved."

Lizama said the possibility of the rounds cooking off inside the tank posed a significant threat that forced the team to retreat twice in the course of the event, but after EOD confirmed the positioning and direction of the ammunition load, they were able to approach from the front. The impact rounds were all facing out and to the rear.

The unit's Fire Chief, SSG Richard Diephuis, said he is proud of his Soldier-firefighters and how they approach their duties and responsibilities to keeping Anaconda a fire-free zone.

"Our goal is to be out the door in less than one minute," Diephuis said. "That's why we keep our duty crews in 'hot' bunks so they can respond quickly," adding that there was more dramatic action than met the untrained eye at the Abrams fire scene.

"We had two scenes occurring simultaneously — we had other support out there, and one Iraqi and another international contract employee went down with heat exhaustion, so we had a medical scene behind the firefighting scene, with firefighters giving IVs to two patients on stretchers."

A fire inside Anaconda's perimeter is challenging enough, given the Soldiers are layered in protective clothing that insulates from fire, but also raises the body's core temperature significantly, especially during sustained periods of exertion over time. Add on physical demands and the stress of fighting a fire strategically and safely with an unseen enemy who may decide to engage you with small arms fire or casually lob in a mortar, and you have a recipe for real danger. But these Soldiers don't blink… they respond.

"What they did out there is what's expected of them," Diephuis said, "and they've never let me down, but that's a mutual feeling between us. Like all Soldiers, we're watching each other's backs. We're like firefighters anywhere — most people don't really think about us until something happens… then we're there."

(The Army Reserve firefighters from the 475th Engineer Detachment wish to thank the following LSA Anaconda emergency response organizations for their support and assistance during the M1 Abrams fire at the North Gate: the Iraqi Fire Team; the firefighting element from Station #3; the Quick Response Force; the Explosive-Ordnance Detachment; the U.S. Air Force firefighters on Anaconda; the 90th Civil Engineering Squadron; the Army's rotary wing air support elements at Anaconda, and the medical support element of the ERC.)

ARMY RESERVE SOLDIER BRINGS UNIQUE SKILLS TO CREATE COOL REFRESHMENTS FOR DESERT TROOPS

By MSG Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Acquisition Team
U.S. Army Reserve Command

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq — Having first honed her skills behind the bar at an Applebee's Restaurant, SGT Erin Owen has made a name for herself here among the Soldiers serving in the 369th Transportation Company, from Wichita, Kansas, by "ginning out" virgin drinks that, while not offering the effects of alcohol, nevertheless break up the monotonous taste of the standard beverages available.

Owen and the 369th are among some 23,000 other Soldiers, U.S. service members, and civilian contractors supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom at LSA Anaconda — the centralized supply hub for U.S. and Coalition forces in Iraq. The camp, a former Iraqi Air Force Base, hosts the largest troop concentration in the nation.

With daily summer temperatures rising above 130 degrees, Soldiers get thirsty, especially after returning from the over-the-road convoys that define the 369th's mission. After arriving at Anaconda, the unit wisely incorporated the Soldiers' brought-to-war civilian skills sets in the construction trades to enhance its headquarters and tactical operations center. The buildings resemble the architecture and façade style of an old west town. The troops refer to their Middle East home as "Dodge City." So while they were at it… they thought they'd add a saloon.

"We built the bar into it so it's kind of like a bar," said Owen. "It's a place where the Soldiers can come and relax without being pulled out on a detail. We made that rule before we opened."

Functioning as a dayroom where Soldiers can sit in air conditioned comfort and watch large-screen television or movies on DVD, read books, play cards or board games, write letters home, or just while away down time, the place also features snacks and soft drinks for sale. But the real draw here is the availability of the frosty, flavorful mixed drinks concocted by Owen. Before she was

[Right] SGT Erin Owen of the 369th Transportation Company, Wichita, Kan., serves up a tall cool one for Army Reserve Soldiers at LSA Anaconda in Balad, Iraq.

(PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, U.S. ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE ACQUISITION TEAM)

mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Owen was employed as a banquet server and bartender at the River City Brewery in Old Towne, Wichita. She lives in nearby Winfield.

After adding her special set of ingredients and precious ice into a blender, then mixing and pouring the product into a plastic glass, she tops-off each drink with a spoon, and a straw sporting a miniature paper umbrella for dramatic effect. Order… up! "That's a Wildcat Crush. I have six or seven drinks I mix now," Owen said. "I mixed them and the Soldiers named them."

Owen said that Iraq's weather is like '…standing too close to a big bonfire. The wind kicks up the dirt and it feels like when the flames get too close to your face.'

Sharing the spotlight in her repertoire with the Wildcat Crush are what she calls the standards — "…the Pina Colada, Roy Rogers, Arnold Palmer, Shirley Temple, Cotton Candy and one we call… the Purple Promiscuous Lady," said Owen, offering a mysterious grin.

Although her range is somewhat limited to whatever she can muster from the PX (Post Exchange) here, her supplies have also been augmented by care packages from home — one complete with boxes of ready-made powder cocktail mixes. Basically, she uses various sodas, juices, the powder mixes, snow-cone syrup, and ice to achieve the desired effect.

"I use whatever's available," Owen said. "Once in a while, I'll run a daily special if I get a lot of something. Like one time we had two cartons of pina and strawberry colada mix donated — so I had a special on those drinks all day."

Owen's drinks come at a cost — a sawbuck each, or whatever the chilling refreshment is worth to the thirsty customers seeking taste options for their palettes. All the money collected returns to a fund pool that restocks the bar with drink ingredients and snacks. So how does a desert Soldier behave after downing two or three of her Cotton Candies?

"You get enough sugar in these Soldiers and they get pretty rowdy," said Owen, "but we also have the non-alcoholic beer here and that seems to relax them." Being a bartender often means listening to the problems of patrons, and even without the social lubrication of John Barleycorn, Owen hears her share of stories.

"Some of them tell me things," she said. "I enjoy talking and getting to know them. Before we came here, we were at Fort Riley (Kansas) and I was a dispatcher, so I really didn't get a chance to know many of the people, but since I've been bartending, I've got to know a lot of them by first name, so I enjoy it. The one-to-one contact is great."

But being in Iraq for a full year isn't all pretty drinks with umbrellas for Owen. She was trained by the Army to be a fuel specialist, and her "real" job here is fueling the unit's convoys coming in. It's a dusty, dirty, sweaty job under a sun that heats steel so hot it will actually scorch skin… not to mention the almost daily hot metal "incoming."

"It's hard to explain but when you're in conditions like these — that it doesn't really matter where you are — you know that at any moment a mortar can hit, but you also know you have to live with it.

"You can't control the direction of a mortar round or where it's going to land, so you can't let it affect your everyday working situation. You just have to keep going. A lot of people believe that if it's your time to go, it's your time to go," said Owen.

Spoken like a true bartender… and Soldier. Two Soldiers were killed and more than a dozen wounded in a mortar attack here about a month ago. Owen joined the Army Reserve three years ago.

"When I joined… I had no idea I'd be here," she said, "but as far as the work and the dirt and sand — I don't mind it. I don't mind getting dirty. It really doesn't matter much because as soon as you leave the shower, you start getting dirty again."

Owen said that Iraq's weather is like "…standing too close to a big bonfire. The wind kicks up the dirt and it feels like when the flames get too close to your face. It's hot here."

The 369th's mission is running supply convoys throughout Iraq. The mission destinations change, and may last only hours, entail overnight stays or stretch into journeys lasting several days. Essentially, no highway in Iraq extends a guaranteed safe passage. Increasing attacks on U.S. Army military convoys are exacting a toll on the transportation companies tasked with Anaconda's convoy missions. In mid-July, a vehicle in one of the unit's convoys was hit by a roadside IED (Improved Explosive Device), seriously injuring the two Soldiers in the cab. Still, convoys roll out of Dodge City almost every day.

"We always wish them good luck and tell them to stay safe. Stay alert — stay alive," Owen said.

Even through miles of threatening attacks and ambushes Soldiers may encounter while traveling over Iraq's roads, after the convoys return, the 369th's Soldiers can always count on one thing… one of Owen's tall, cool drinks at the end of that long, dusty highway.

HIGH-FLYING COUPLE "ABOVE IT ALL" IN SKIES OVER IRAQ

Co-Piloting For Each Other Presents No Problems For Two Army Reserve Aviators Who Happen To Be ... Married!

By MSG Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Acquisition Team
U.S. Army Reserve Command

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq — To make a marriage work, it's usually better if both husband and wife have a good grasp of the challenges and pressures facing each other. With Brian and Julia Ward, both chief warrant officers 4 in the Army Reserve, that battle is fought and over, and happy as a storybook ending, since both are Army Reserve pilots. The Wards are both here in Iraq serving with the 6/52nd Aviation Regiment from Los Alamitos, Calif.

"We're fortunate that we get to fly together quite a bit," Brian said. "It's a good relief for us as aviators. We're able to sit down in the morning or at the end of the day and discuss what's happened." Brian retired from his job as a pilot for the California Highway Patrol and was serving as an Active Guard Reserve Soldier in the unit before both he and his wife were both mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It's great," Julia said. "Actually, we're able to spend more time together here than at home since I'm a commercial airline pilot and Brian travels a lot too." Although they reside in Corona, Calif., Julia's job with Atlantic Southeast Airlines is based at Dallas/Fort Worth. She said she always looked forward to the monthly drills as a dedicated time when they would be together. Now, for the first time, they'll be together for at least a year.

Brian and Julia initially met through their military service, and although they served together as friends for a few years, a mobilization and deployment to Bosnia cemented their mutual intentions. But even with love "in the air" the Wards take flying seriously.

"When we're flying it's strictly aviator to aviator," said Julia, adding that they each perform different functions depending upon the mission. She said they never argue about who's doing what or who is in charge. "If we're doing a flight with multiple legs, we switch legs on who flies and who talks or does commo," she said. "Each flight has a pilot in command — sometimes it's him and sometimes it's me."

PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACQUISITION TEAM, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

CWO 4, Brian and Julia Ward, with their Beechcraft C-12 in Iraq. The Wards fly together ferrying troops from point to point.

"I feel for people who had to leave their spouse behind, but on the flip side, they don't have to worry about their spouse flying over Iraq in the middle of the night."

Brian said that flying in Iraq is quite different from his former job with the highway patrol.

"I used to think that flying for the highway patrol was exciting but this is a lot more exciting," Brian said. "Obviously the missile threat is one thing we didn't have in California, or if we did I was unaware of it." Sometimes though, things on the ground are not much safer. "We have our earthquakes, fires, and an occasional riot (back home), but nothing like this (mortar attacks). We average about one a day."

Flying skies that, while safe today, nevertheless could begin posing new threats to aircraft at any time is something both have considered.

"It's war," Julia said. "I'm not sure whether I like being on the air or on the ground. You can't worry about it — you just deal with it mentally. You try to be as safe as you can — you take all the precautions."

In their unusual situation, however, the Wards see more pros than cons. Both are proud to be serving in the Army and feel they are becoming stronger in this deployment.

"It's a good thing we have each other… for each other," said Brian. "It's been more than what we expected but it has not been what we didn't expect… so it's been good." Julia said they had heard that things might go slow in the air so they prepared for stretches of lesser activity by bringing along books, movies on DVD, and language courses.

"It's been pretty busy though," Julia said, "and it's all worthwhile. Our compatibility is great and we're lucky enough to be deployed together. I feel for people who had to leave their spouse behind, but on the flip side, they don't have to worry about their spouse flying over Iraq in the middle of the night. They know they're at home in the living room with the kids."

Neither has any doubt about the professional attitude and ability of the other, so the Wards are in smooth air flying as pilot and co-pilot.

"I have comfort in that he (Brian) is a very professional pilot and we communicate and work well together," said Julia. But merely getting themselves home safely encompasses other responsibilities and aspects of flying too.

"We fly a lot of Soldiers here," Julia said, "and I know it's important for the senior leaders to get to their meetings, but I especially like flying 'Private Smith' because he's the one working really hard in the field here. We see a lot of happy faces when they (Soldier/passengers) know they don't have to convoy — they really appreciate being in the air."

Most of the unit's, and the Wards', missions are flown in seven-seat, Beechcraft C-12 prop jets, ferrying troops from spot to spot, and both share pride in their part of supporting Soldiers.

"Our hearts really go out to the troops on the ground," Brian said. They are the backbone of what's going on here. They're the ones doing the job and we're proud of them."

Brian said that most of their flights are operational in nature but occasionally they get a Soldier heading home or on R&R (Rest and Relaxation). "Even if we were here just for that purpose — that's good enough!"

A FUTURE IN FIREFIGHTING

Two Army Reserve Soldiers Look to Parlay Iraq Experiences, Duty into Tomorrow's Job Market

By MSG Jack Gordon
Public affairs Acquisition Team
U.S. Army Reserve

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA (LSA) ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq — Two young Soldiers here are seeing their futures in today's service as Army firefighters, and even through the smoke, both futures couldn't be brighter.

"I always dreamed about being a firefighter but I never actually thought I'd become one," said SPC Everad Lewis.

A resident of Tacoma, Wash., Lewis is assigned to the 475th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting) from Creston, Iowa. Many Soldiers serving in Army Reserve units now in Iraq underwent a process during mobilization called "cross-leveling," where

individual Soldiers are mobilized and assigned to units that received a mobilization order and were required to fill vacancies in their mission-essential personnel.

Lewis and SPC Benjamin Siekawitch were both assigned to the 907th Engineer Detachment in Yakima, Wash., before being individually mobilized and reassigned to the 475th here. Both see firefighting careers ahead of them, once their service here is complete.

"I'm here for the experience," Siekawitch said. "On this deployment I'm getting experience from the firefighting side that should help me get a job. It's also going to get me more respect in my life."

"I started late in the military — I was 26 when I enlisted, but better late than never," said Lewis. "I joined to help my family and to serve and protect my country." Such decisive action and commitment is the stuff the Army is always looking for, so it wasn't long before he received a call.

"My family and all my friends were in denial, but I actually knew I was going to be over here," Lewis said. 'They were saying 'No you're not — no you're not' but I felt it in my heart and I felt it was time for me to serve my country, and to be the man I needed to be… and was supposed to be."

"I was trying to be a student, but my long-term goal was becoming a firefighter," Siekawitch said. The Army Reserve has helped him realize the first phase of his ambition, and so far, life in Iraq isn't quite what he was expecting.

"I thought I was going to be dropped in the middle of a hot LZ (Landing Zone) getting fired at and ducking for cover, but once I got here, I settled in — it's a little different being a firefighter," Siekawitch said.

The 475th is one of the elements comprising Anaconda's Emergency Response Center, which includes fire, military police, ordnance, and medical assets. LSA Anaconda is host to approximately 23,000 U.S. and Coalition service members and civilian contractors, making it the largest concentration of American troops in Iraq.

The Soldiers respond to multitudes of routine emergencies every day.

"Mostly we have heat casualties — it's very hot here, so there are heat casualties. There are a lot of electrical problems too, but the buildings are concrete, so they hold up pretty well, but the tents are soaked in kerosene to waterproof it and help keep the insects away. They can go up in about 30 seconds — we've had a couple go down," Lewis said.

"We get a lot of calls for dumpster fires too," Siekawitch said, "and the tent fires. You're really not saving any lives or property on those, but we assist on the medical calls, then there are the mortar attacks."

Anaconda is a sprawling military operations base that was once home to the Iraqi Air force. Mortar attacks are common, and while most are random and cause little damage, some have been deadly. In June 2004, the Post Exchange here was mortared, killing two Soldiers and wounding more than a dozen additional troops.

"I came pretty close to an incoming round," said Siekawitch. "I was getting in my HUMVEE and heard a round go off — we saw the explosion about 100 meters away. It was pretty crazy. It was a lucky day because if I would have left a minute earlier the round could have been right on the HUMVEE. So… God was looking out for me.

"It's hard to explain what it's like here to my family and friends back home," said Siekawitch. "You don't know unless you've been over here. What you see on the news isn't exactly the truth — the news makes things a lot worse than what we're getting here, but we sure appreciate all the support from the 'states.'"

"…I felt it was time for me to serve my country, and to be the man I needed to be… and was supposed to be."

Siekawitch said his service has been a long journey to date, and that he's looking forward to going home, but in the meantime… he's proud to be serving among skilled and honorable fellow Soldiers.

"We've come together as a team," he said, "and that makes things a lot easier." And as far as working in air that's superheated by the sun to temperatures hovering around 125 degrees every day, Lewis is OK with it.

"It's cool," Lewis said, "I'm working as a firefighter."

"BETTER WATCH OUT . . ." ANACONDA MPs CONDUCTING TRAFFIC SAFETY CHECKS

By MSG Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Acquisition Team
U.S. Army Reserve

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq — If you're behind the wheel of a vehicle on the streets here, be certain you've dotted all the "i"s and crossed all the "t"s in the phrase "traffic safety," since it's awareness of the camp's vehicle operations policies and safety requirements military police here from the 362nd MP Company are attempting to instill and enforce.

We're heading up a TCP (Traffic Control Point) here," said SSG David Burton. "If there's anything wrong with vehicle registration or paperwork, we'll call back to our office and correct it here and now."

For vehicle identification and control, as well as force protection, all vehicles operating on Anaconda must first be registered at the 362nd's station located off Pennsylvania Avenue — somehow appropriate for the Army Reserve unit from Ashley, Pa., that is now tasked with conducting all law enforcement operations within the camp's perimeter.

The procedure isn't designed to harass troops, but to ensure adherence to established safety rules.

"We're trying to root out everybody who's not following the rules — rules save lives and the Army has rules — so we're cracking down on Soldiers who are breaking the rules," said SGT Diery Louis. If somebody is coming to Anaconda, they need to know that we're out here."

Soldiers aren't the only ones who fall under the jurisdiction of the 362nd — all civilian contractors operating motor vehicles on Anaconda are too, subject to the camp's traffic regulations and the MPs' enforcement of them.

"We check the non-tactical vehicles for registration and seat belt compliance," SPC Christopher O'Brien said, "and we check the tactical vehicles for a co-driver, vehicle dispatch, seat belts, and that the Soldiers are wearing Kevlar (the Army's helmet made of Kevlar). O'Brien said they encounter violations at every TCP. The procedure isn't designed to harass troops, but to ensure adherence to established safety rules.

"The non-tactical vehicles are mostly good," said O'Brien. "The tactical vehicles are mostly OK too, but with the non-up-armored HUMVEEs — a lot of Soldiers don't think you need a co-driver, but you do. A single driver is not authorized."

The increasing threat of roadside and vehicle-born IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) has the Army welding quarter-inch steel plate on the sides and gun turrets of many of its vehicles to protect Soldiers from shrapnel. Newer HUMVEEs are much more heavily armored and outfitted with bulletproof glass windshields and windows that make driving maneuvers like backing up more difficult.

"We're just enforcing the safety rules," said SPC Thomas Relation. "The HUMVEEs need the assistant driver." The assistant driver is also responsible for ground-guiding the vehicle any time it enters a troop or bivouac area, for additional safety. The MPs' efforts are not lost on the Command Sergeant Major of the 13th Corps Support Command (COSCOM) and LSA Anaconda, CSM Dan Elder.

"This is extremely important," Elder said. "Sometimes in an environment like this, Soldiers feel safer, and though it's much safer than it is outside the perimeter, there are still risks associated with operating motor vehicles without the proper safety gear and seat restraints. This helps Soldiers realize the risks and dangers — and it reminds them of the importance of using these protective items."

Only days earlier, some Soldiers here were undoubtedly surprised after they were halted at a TCP and instead of an MP, the sergeant major approached them. Elder believes in the safety checks so much he participates in them, reinforcing the drivers' awareness of the 13th COSCOM's focus on safety — a focus the 362nd MP Company's troops are bringing into sharper clarity.

"These MPs have a large mission for a small organization," Elder said. "They're doing a great job with limited resources — they're supporting this camp well." ARM

[Right] SPC Christopher O'Brien checks a civilian contract vehicle at the Traffic Control Point (TCP) on LSA Anaconda.

(PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON, U.S. ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE ACQUISITION TEAM)

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Rear Detachment Officer Training Emphasizes Taking Care of Soldiers and Families

By Paul Adams
U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs

When the frantic call came into the Army Reserve center that the mother of one of the deployed Soldiers was seriously ill and the Soldier's spouse had no way to visit her because of a disabled automobile, the NCO on duty was not sure where to turn to next to get help.

Scenarios such as these were part of small group activity workshops that approximately 130 student-Soldiers were involved in during Rear Detachment Officer In Charge (RDOIC) training held in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 12–16 2004. The five-day training event, sponsored by the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC), also featured speakers talking on such topics as Reunion for Families, Deployment Guide, Emotional Cycles of Deployment, TRICARE/Dental, and others, according to Diane Magrane, USARC family program manager, who organized the training along with other members of the USARC Family Program staff.

Unit commanders provide assistance to family members of deployed Soldiers by appointing a Rear Detachment Officer (RDO) (noncommissioned or officer) to work with the unit's Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leader and Telephone Tree Chairperson to contact family members on a monthly basis.

The focus of the training was to address the issues and concerns of the officers and in some cases NCOs who will be in charge of rear detachment operations once units mobilize. The conference emphasized taking care of Soldiers and their families.

"In response to the Global War on Terrorism, the USARC Family Program Office first developed and implemented formal RDOIC training in July 2003," Magrane said. "Since then we have trained over 500 Soldiers. Our goal has always been to conduct proactive training delivered by subject matter experts to better support the RDOICs."

According to Magrane, the Cincinnati training is the last training Family Programs will sponsor as the program proponecy now transitions to the Well-Being office.

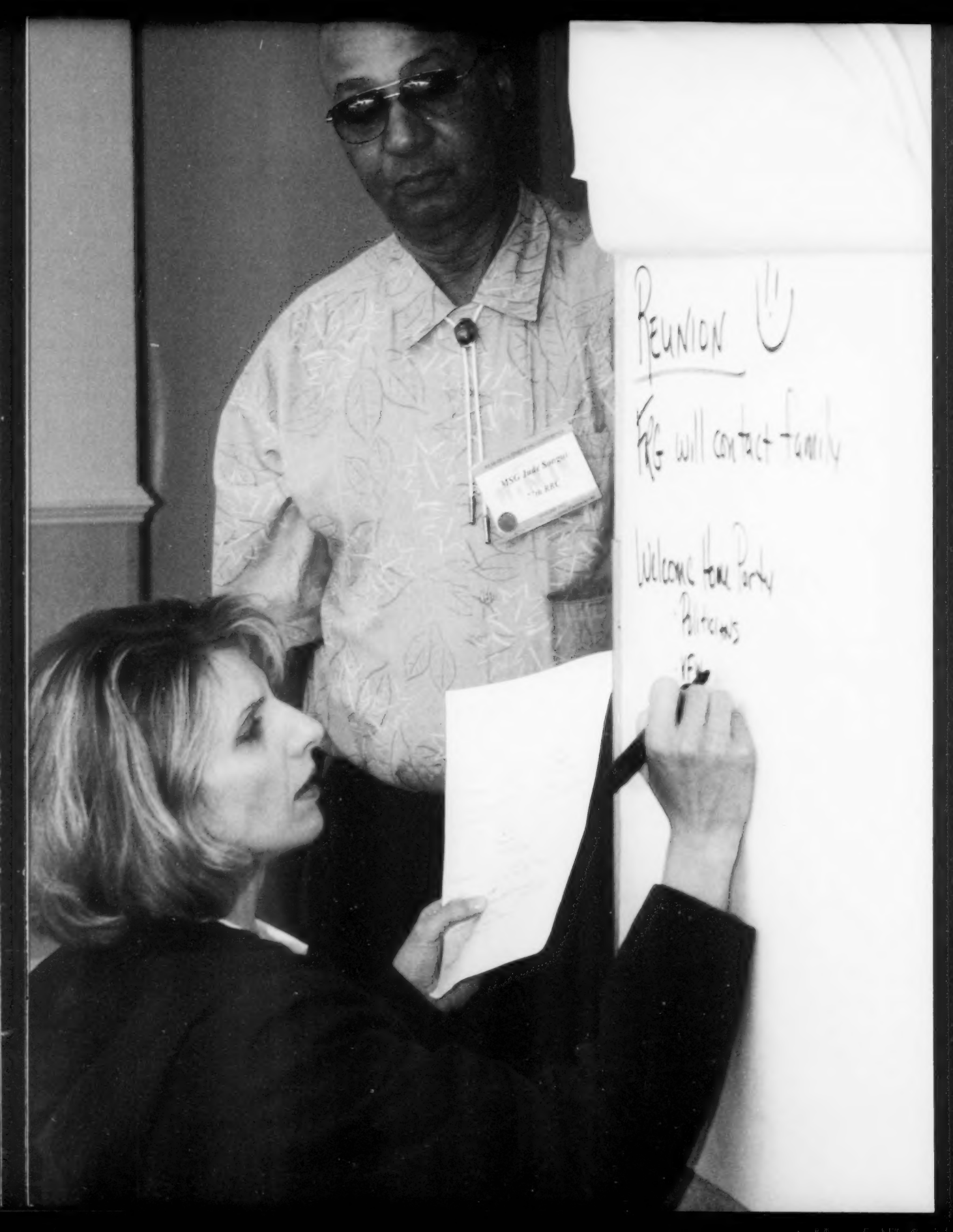
Rear Detachment Operations (RDO) is an initiative of the Army's Well-Being Program which is a critical component of Army Reserve Readiness, according to Edward Dimmerling, newly appointed director of the Army Reserve Well-Being Program.

"We are committed to a holistic implementation of the Army's Well-Being campaign. Our support and active participation will improve Well-Being Army-wide for all constituents which includes Soldiers, families, veterans, retirees, and civilians," Dimmerling said. "We, as part of the Army Reserve G-1, have functional staff responsibility to include program management and execution for the Army Reserve Well-Being program," Dimmerling added.

The intended end-state of RDO and family readiness is to develop and sustain Soldiers and have self-reliant families that understand and use Army and volunteer support programs during times of separation.

During the group workshops students briefed solutions and developed plans of execution for planning and preparation during the alert and mobilization phases. "The workshops gave the students an

MSG Jude Songui, 77th Regional Readiness Command, looks on as Paulette Horning-Sanford records the execution plan her team proposes during the group workshops of the Rear Detachment Officer in Charge (RDOIC) training conference. (PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS)


REUNION
FRG will contact family
Welcome Home Party

opportunity to do a dry run scenario," said Magrane. Groups were given scenarios and created solutions based on the instruction. "Solutions included financial planning, getting commanders involved, and counseling," she said.

The RDOIC establishes contact with the FRG leader. They may be doing mobilization briefings while Soldiers are at home station. The Soldier should get to know the FRG members so they get the feeling that their families are going to be well taken care of.

A positive and supportive relationship between the RDO and FRG is critical and will benefit a unit's retention and keep Soldiers focused on the mission and build trust, enhance communications, and morale for both the deployed Soldier and the family member.

"You are the 'intake' person, as RDOIC or NCO," said Al Balent, family program manager with USARC. "Families calling the RDOs can be under a lot of stress. RDOs have to be an example for them. They are looking at you. It is a struggle."

According to Balent, the RDOIC works with the Family Readiness Group Leader and deals with the issues that may arise. The RDOIC also handles the tracking sheet and does follow-up on any issues and concerns. The FRG needs to establish and exercise the telephone tree. If FRG volunteers become aware of complex issues, they refer them to the RDOIC. "The RDOIC will first verify the facts in a situation. They may then refer individuals to a number of resources for further assistance such as Army One Source, a toll-free helpline," Balent said.

RDOs are required to have family readiness skills, and be mature, sensitive to family concerns and issues, intelligent, a good listener, calm, energetic, and be willing to help. They should also have knowledge of official Army pay, legal, medical, and other personnel services to solve family issues and concerns locally or provide information and referral for these areas.

Paulette Horning-Sanford, a unit administrator for the 706th Transportation Co., based in Mansfield, Ohio, has been functioning as an RDOIC, but didn't know it until she came to the training conference. She has been performing the various duties talked about in the conference. "It is very time consuming, but the Army One Source will be most helpful now," said Horning-Sanford.

RDOs are required to have family readiness skills, and be mature, sensitive to family concerns and issues, intelligent, a good listener, calm, energetic, and be willing to help.

Having just returned from Iraq to become RDONCOIC in her unit three weeks before the conference started, SGT Juanita Cyr, 353rd Engineer Group based in Oklahoma City, Okla., was expecting to get lots of information to help support her Soldiers. "It's a head start to get information to let Soldiers know how you can help them. It is important that families keep us informed and let us know what their needs are. Then we can give them the reassurance to help them," Cyr said.

So far, Cyr has been setting up the family tree and putting the newsletter together. She is doing the RDO newsletter and one from the family readiness group.

"The family members know why their son/daughters are over there. I update Soldiers on their wants and needs. The main thing is that you can serve as a resource. You can go through the experience and learn from them," Cyr said.

Someone the students could rely on who really knew what she was talking about was Ellen Evans, a family programs Senior Volunteer Resource Instructor (SVRI), and FRG volunteer with the 330th Medical Brigade under the 88th Regional Readiness Command. Evans made a presentation on the Deployment Preparation Guide.

"Many of the Soldiers here have not been deployed thus far and don't have the personal experience to draw on," said Evans. "I try to ensure that the Soldier and their families are prepared ahead of time."

One student who has been previously mobilized for seven months as commander of a psychological operations detachment is 1LT Michael DiSalvo. This time he will be the RDOIC while his unit is deployed. "This is very interesting training and is a very good overview of what I am going to be dealing with for Operation Iraqi Freedom. This will help me as an RDOIC to get plans in place to get started," DiSalvo said.

Besides teaching at Family Program Academies, Evans has the experience as a spouse of a Soldier for two deployments, so she really knows what it feels like. "I love doing this because I love doing something my husband and I have in common. I love sharing the experiences I have had," Evans said.

One student said to her that Evans brought a whole new perspective to this as a family member. Evans said that the student told her that she really brings the "family-side of the house" to their attention and students were very appreciative of that. ARM

Company Team Leader Development Course Shapes Today's Leaders

By John D. Wagner
63rd Regional Readiness Command PAO

"We're looking for leaders of innovation, ingenuity, initiative, and strength — not bureaucrats, whose satisfaction in life is achieved by making it to 5 (o'clock) in the afternoon, reporting to the commander that 'I've processed all the papers.' We're looking for life-long learning, rooted in values and the Warrior Ethos. We want every learner rewarded for innovation, ingenuity, and the courage to change as opposed to the completion of a process. (We want leaders to be) product- versus process-oriented."

—LTG James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, and commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Command

Punching up slides with questions written on a "stars and stripes" background, LTC Mark Anspach moderated an Army version of "Family Feud."

Question: "Master Fitness trainers are required to score 300 points on the Army fitness test."

"False," a Soldier called out.

"Correct. Point for this group," Anspach said, referring to the right side of the class. Question: "TDA units do not need a mission-essential task list because they generally do not go to war."

"False," said CPT Kris Overman of the 425th Transportation Company. "They need one because they still have a mission."

The scene was a classroom at the B.T. Collins U.S. Army Reserve Center, Sacramento, Calif. Taking a moment from in-depth lectures and group exercises, nearly 30 NCOs, officers, and unit administrators took part in an informal game-show-type review of issues they had been studying.

All were attending the Company Team Leader Development Course (CTLDC) for an intensive 52 hours over five days, typically lasting from 6:15 a.m. to 10 p.m. or later. The goal is to meld the officers, NCOs, and administrators into a team with a common understanding and agenda, whether in peace or war.

Training the three different types of leaders together is a unique concept. Normally the civilian, NCO, and officer have separate training programs and traditionally different perspectives.

Led by cadre and guest speakers, the course rapidly covered a new subject about every two hours. They included:

- Drill and Ceremony
- Developing a Commander's Vision
- Elements of Success
- Conduct the Army Physical Readiness Test
- Instilling Army Values
- Judge Advocate Group Resources

But this was not just another class among the many conducted during the last five years. The course was part of a national "rollout," expanding CTLDC from the 63rd Regional Readiness Command to Army Reserve–wide. The class held in May 2004 was different — signaling a clear transition — with teams from the 88th and 89th Regional Readiness Commands out of Minneapolis, Minn., and Wichita, Kan., respectively, along with unit teams from Nebraska, California, Indiana, and Nevada.

Furthermore, three people from the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center, Fort McCoy, Wis., attended. They comprised CTLDC mobile training teams that will assist the RRCs in the course set-up and delivery nationwide.

"We're taking the existing program of instruction and changing some parts to making them more adaptable for other Regional Readiness Commands," explained CPT Jane Tamboli, team leader for the mobile team. "We will help implement and teach at various RRCs as the plan begins to roll out."

She said the implementation begins this year and will continue into fiscal year 2006.

The Soldiers and civilians at the Reserve Center practiced their drill and ceremony skills each morning. On a cold, windy morning, CPT Darren Antal, commander of the 823rd AG Replacement Company, called the formation to attention. "Platoon leaders," he bellowed, "Prepare your Soldiers for inspection."

After finishing, they went back to the classroom that was ringed with posters shouting themes such as "Excellence," "Teamwork," and "Perseverance." In the middle was a picture with steely-eyed Army Rangers bristling with weapons.

COL (Ret.) Christopher Green, CTLDC course developer and master trainer for 63rd RRC, asked for feedback on the morning parade.

"What kind of problems did you see?" he asked. "What can we do to improve?"

"Some people in the back were talking in the ranks," said SFC Tom Clausson of 425th Transportation Company, Salina, Kan. "I didn't like that."

MSG Priamo Paulino of the Readiness Training Center gave another observation.

"You don't give the last squad an 'at ease' after an inspection," he said.

"Right," said Green. "There's no point. You're done."

Among the course topics was "Effective Leadership in Army Reserve Units," with class members and cadre interacting.

"Quality training needs to be MOS specific," said MSG Garren Fulmer of the 313th Military Police Detachment in Las Vegas, summarizing study material. "Training needs to be hands-on, organized into a plan, and adhered to."

Green agreed.

"Units often shoot themselves in the foot, don't have a training plan or adequately conduct training," he said. "There can be be a problem like 'we wanted weapons training, but didn't order ammunition.'"

The class also listened to guest speakers. LTC Lisa Windsor, staff judge advocate for 63rd Regional Readiness Command spoke to them about proper discipline procedures.

"Discipline is a part of command," she said. "It must be linear and ascending. If an enlisted Soldier keeps mouthing off to officers and gets nothing but counseling statements, he'll think 'I can do this indefinitely.' Then I'll see commanders

Physical training, including a group run for the Soldiers and civilians, was part of the curriculum.

PHOTO: JOHN D. WAGNER

say, 'I want him out!' But I need to see different techniques to rehabilitate." She said examples are Article 15s or bars to reenlistment.

"The ultimate goal of the leadership campaign is a change in our culture of leadership."

Each team of commander, NCO, and civilian worked jointly to develop plans for effectively dealing with issues such as retention, attendance, and instilling Army Values. The plans included spelling out who in the unit would be responsible. SFC Stephen Neu, unit administrator Julie Miller and Chief Warrant Officer Robert Justice of the 639th Transportation Company, Vallejo, Calif., wrote a three-point drill attendance improvement plan. Details included:

- Create and implement an award-recognition program for perfect attendance (commander, first sergeant, and unit administrator responsible);
- Schedule some creative training, e.g., car wash for donations to Family Readiness Group and to encourage team building, instilling Army Values (NCOs responsible); and
- Create a buddy system for contact, transportation, and other needs, and to fix a potential "no show" (first sergeant, NCOs responsible).

Justice appreciated the training in the course.

"If we sit down and do the hard stuff in the beginning, it will make us a better team," he said.

CPT Gabriella Cook, commander of the 313th Military Police Detachment in Las Vegas, Nev. on "alert" status for potential deployment, praised the course as well.

"It's improved our teamwork and cooperation," she said. "We know how to approach it better. We communicated more and said, 'This is my strength and this is your strength.' When we are at drill, we hardly ever have time to sit down and go over things."

The course and the scheduled "roll out" are components of the Army Reserve Leadership Campaign Plan. This initiative began in May 2003 under LTG James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve. COL Sharon Stanley, chief of the Leadership Initiative, was present for the CTLDC "train-the-trainer" session in Sacramento, Calif.

"The ultimate goal of the leadership campaign is a change in our culture of leadership," Stanley said. "The three key leadership competencies are: **1. Self Awareness** — 'Who am I as a leader and what effect am I having on those around me?' **2. Agility and Adaptability** — 'Do it now, get it done, and we may have to be flexible to complete the mission. We don't have to be perfect; we need to move ahead'; **3. Life-long learners** — 'Soldiers and civilians who choose to continue their learning outside the school house.'"

The Company Team Leader Development Course was a groundbreaking concept developed in 1999 by the 63rd Regional Readiness Command (then named 63rd Regional Support Command). The issue: Reserve units would conduct monthly training and the first sergeants, commanders, and civilian administrators would experience friction and misunderstandings that undermined readiness.

The course began in April 1999 at Oakland Army Base, Calif., and more than 300 people have since graduated. As more classes were conducted, CTLDC resulted in improvements in unit readiness and increased leadership efficiency. The roll-out Army Reserve–wide was later approved by Helmly.

Each position has a different function, training, and perspective, observed Anspach, co-designer of the course. "They're in three different silos," he said. "Officers go down one path of training with other officers. NCOs go down their path and UAs have their own as well."

Conditions are further complicated by unit commanders and first sergeants not being full-time and by all having to get caught up during weekend training.

"These guys come in on a training weekend and run around at Warp 9 and they don't have quiet time to get together and plan," Anspach continued. "Or a new commander comes in with his own assumptions without dealing with other peoples' assumptions."

The course organizers even include touches from the fine arts, showing movie clips with themes relevant to military leadership.

One segment was from "Memphis Belle," a 1990 story about World War II aviators. A fleet of U.S. bombers are on their way to strike German targets during World War II. They reach a smoke screen and veer out of the area.

The commander then makes a dangerous decision to turn back and make another run even though anti-aircraft gunners would anticipate them returning. The co-pilot walks to the back of the plane, talks to the tail gunner, who then shoots down a German plane. It is the wrong moment. The damaged plane comes crashing downward on an American bomber. Both aircraft plummet to the ground.

"Let's talk about this," Anspach said, in front of the class. "What did you see as far as the co-pilots deal with the tail gunner?"

"He abandoned his post for his own personal satisfaction," said one Soldier.

"And he didn't demonstrate loyalty to his team," Anspach observed. "He was trying to do something for himself."

Others chimed in opinions that the commander showed personal courage in ordering the return bombing run. ARM

People in Focus

SFC DUNLAP RECEIVES SECRETARY OF THE ARMY USAR RETENTION AND TRANSITION NCO OF THE YEAR AWARD

Standing toe to toe against top Army Reserve Retention and Transition (RT) NCOs from 12 Army Reserve Regional Readiness Commands (RRCs), SFC John K. Dunlap, 89th RRC was awarded the Secretary of the Army, Army Reserve RTNCO of the Year Award.

The Retention NCOs who competed already won preliminary competitions held by their commands. Soldiers are selected to compete based on their performance, attitude, enthusiasm, appearance, self-expression, and knowledge of Soldier skills. The program serves as a tool promoting excellence and proficiency allowing Soldiers the opportunity to show their knowledge about the service and set examples of their expertise and professionalism to their peers.

Dunlap, assigned to the 89th RRC, serves as the Warrant Officer Accessions NCO for Kansas and Northwest Missouri. He entered the Active Guard Reserve program in January 2001, stationed in Belton, Mo.

Dunlap has been a part of "An Army of One" since June 1993 when he entered active duty at Fort Leonardwood, Mo. When his time came to leave the Army, he decided to become "Twice the Citizen" and continued the opportunity to serve by joining the Army Reserve.

Participating in the board was a "great opportunity" according to Dunlap "which required him to push himself". He stated he "would like more Soldiers participating in the boards in order to increase knowledge of their job and Soldiers skills."

WORLD WAR II VETERAN RECEIVES AWARDS FOR WAR SERVICE

By LTC Burton L. Masters
Public Affairs Office
Human Resources Command–St. Louis

Lonnell T. Ware, Jr., an 83-year-old Army World War II veteran with the 3168th Quartermaster Service Company, received belated recognition for his wartime service in a ceremony held Aug. 27, 2004 by U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay, Jr., (D-Mo.) and COL Limuel Hunter, Jr., the deputy commander of the U.S. Army's Human Resources Command–St. Louis (HRC–STL).

Ware was presented with the Good Conduct Medal, European Campaign Medal, with silver service star and arrowhead devices, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button for WWII. He was also presented an HRC–STL Commander's Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the local Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and an HRC–STL Command Sergeant Major's coin in recognition of his exceptional service.

Entering active service on Jan. 9, 1943 at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Ware attended basic training at Camp Young Desert Training Center, Calif. He landed on Omaha Beach following D-Day on June 8, 1944 and participated in actions in five campaigns across Europe — in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Central Europe, and the Rhineland. (The silver service star device on the campaign medal reflects his service in these campaigns and arrowhead device recognizes his amphibious landing on Omaha Beach). On Jan. 9, 1945, he was honorably discharged at Jefferson Barracks.

Following the awards ceremony, Ware recounted some of his wartime experiences, including coming under fire at Normandy. "The bullets were flying all over. So, you had to get your head down and dig in.... It's amazing how fast you can react and move under pressure," he recalled. He also chuckled as he recalled passing an artillery unit from the St. Louis area who were firing on the Germans: "They were singing while firing to the beat of the St. Louis Blues." Ware also described his participation in shooting down a German plane during the Battle of the Bulge. Throughout his remarks, he expressed a deep sense of patriotism: "I appreciate serving my country — it's a wonderful country. I tried to do the best that I could. I'm proud to have been able to serve."

Present at the ceremony were members of Ware's family, including his daughter, Ms. Hattie Ware-Jones, who initiated the request for Ware's wartime medals. ARM

World War II veteran Lonnell T. Ware, Jr., receives a U.S. Army Human Resources Command–St. Louis certificate of appreciation in recognition of his wartime service as part of an awards ceremony held Aug. 27, 2004. Presenting the certificate is COL Limuel Hunter, Jr., HRC–St. Louis deputy commander. Looking on is U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay, Jr. The ceremony was held in Clay's local St. Louis office.

PHOTO: RAY GALL, HRC-ST. LOUIS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Global News

AFGHAN COMMAND STANDS UP

By COL Randy Pullen
U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs Officer
Office of Military Cooperation — Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — There was not a cloud in the sky but there was thunder and lightning at the Sept. 22 activation of the Afghan National Army's Gardez regional command.

The "thunder" was the 203 Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA), which has been named the Thunder Corps. The Soldiers of Thunder Corps will man the Gardez regional command garrison. Its commander is ANA MG Walizada.

The "lightning" was Tropic Lightning 6, also known as MG Eric Olson, USA, commanding general of the 25th Infantry "Tropic Lightning" Division and commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force 76 in Afghanistan. Olson represented the Combined Forces Command — Afghanistan coalition and the United States at the ceremony.

The Gardez regional command was the ANA's second regional command. The first was established in Kandahar Sept. 19, 2004.

Establishing the regional commands of the Afghan National Army is a milestone step for the general security of Afghanistan and for the strengthening of the Afghan government.

SGT Tim Batten, an Individual Ready Reserve Soldier with the Office of Military Cooperation — Afghanistan Security Detail, scans the Kabul Airport runway as he provides security for the Afghan and coalition officials who will board the U.S. Marine Corps CH-53 helicopter in front of him to go to the Gardez regional command ceremony.

PHOTO: COL RANDY PULLEN

With the standing up of the Gardez and Kandahar regional commands, a permanent Afghan National Army presence in the east and south of Afghanistan, respectively, has been established. The soon-to-be activated regional commands in Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat will put the ANA presence permanently in the west and north, thus covering the entire country and showing to the Afghan people and to the international community that Afghan national government authority extends throughout the nation.

AMERICAN, EUROPEAN SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL PATROL COMPETITION

By SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

SAARLAND, Germany — Through blood, sweat, and international camaraderie, American and European Soldiers came together in September to compete in the 2004 German Army Reserve "Saarschleife" International Military Patrol Competition.

The 313th Support Center, an Army Reserve unit located in Kaiserslautern, Germany, sent three teams of Army Reserve Soldiers to Saarland to compete in this year's German Army Reserve "Saarschleife" International Military Patrol Competition. The Saarschleife is an international military team competition that takes place every two years and is sponsored by the Verteidigungsbezirkskommando 46, which is the regional defense command for Southwestern Germany.

"We participated in the training because our official German partnership unit was one of the event sponsors," said LTC Morrison Fenner, commander of the 313th Support Center. "We competed against Soldiers from Switzerland, Germany, and Italy."

Fenner said the competition consisted of an 18 kilometer night land navigation course, weapons training, 1,500 meter force march (which ended when six rounds were fired by each team member), and machine gun and pistol fire. They also had to rescue a victim out of a burning building, cross a two-rope bridge, provide first aid to ambush victims, assemble and disassemble various German Weapons, fire a German grenade pistol, demonstrate how to operate a checkpoint, and negotiate an obstacle course.

The 313th Support Center's team two took 12th place out of 28 teams which competed in the competition.

"Trophies were only given to the top three teams," said Fenner. "Since some of the teams started training a year out for this event, I think we placed fairly high. Their first aid standards and methodology are a little different from what we know in the United States. Our American teams tied for 1st place in several events to include checkpoint operations and firing the German Grenade Launcher."

When SFC Michael K. Hackett, a member of the 313th Support Center's team two, was asked what he thought abut the training, he said it was painful, but well worth it.

"To be able to learn how our allies work was interesting," said Hackett. "We learned how to disassemble and fire weapons that the German military uses and we were tested on what we had learned. We also navigated at night using the European methods. I learned that our NATO allies are more knowledgeable about the founding and workings of NATO then I was. Overall, it was a great learning event, and of course our allies, especially the Germans, helped us as much as we would allow them to. They were always there to lend a hand."

PHOTO COURTESY OF LTC MORRISON J. FENNER

A Soldier from the German Army races SFC Michael K. Hackett, LTC Morrison J. Fenner, and MAJ Roderick A. Wilson, left to right, of the 313th Support Center as they hustle their way through a team obstacle course. The course was part of the German Army Reserve "Saarschleife" International Military Patrol Competition held in Saarland, Germany.

Hackett said he was extremely proud to be a part of the 313th Support Center's team two, considering that 12th place is the highest the unit has ever placed in the competition.

"We were the 'old man' team from our unit and the teams that we faced do these events regularly," said Hackett. "I mean they train up and compete in these events Europe-wide, but the idea of training with foreign Soldiers was also a plus. The U.S. prefers to build Partnerships when working globally, so more training with our partners would make working in hostile or humanitarian areas or just training events easier."

"I believe all future military operations of any significant size are going to be Joint, Multi-Component, and International," said Fenner. "We must do events like the Saarschleife to foster better understandings between the military components of all countries, and I think that's what we did by competing in this event."

BULGARIAN EXERCISE PREPARES GERMANY-BASED ARMY RESERVE UNIT FOR DEPLOYMENT

By LTC Jon Dahms
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The 7th Army Reserve Command's 330th Support Center (Rear Operations Center) returned from Bulgaria on August 21 after more than six weeks supporting exercise Bulwark 2004.

"This mission was intended as a rehearsal for the 330th's upcoming deployment in support of the Southern European Task Force for the sixth rotation of Operation Enduring Freedom," said MAJ Tony Francia, the unit's Operations Officer. "We were able to validate our unit movement plan and our mission essential tasks."

Nearly 1,000 Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe and various units in the United States descended upon Novo Selo Training Area, a remote Bulgarian Army training site about 25 miles from the city of Sliven. The 330th supported two rotations with a total of 18 Soldiers.

"Our primary mission during the exercise was to coordinate force protection for the U.S. participants," said CPT Brett E. Peters, Operations Officer for the 330th. "We set up liaison and worked closely with Bulgarian Military Police personnel to ensure the safety off all participants."

The exercise, the largest joint exercise with the former East bloc country since Bulgaria joined NATO in May, will help forge strong ties in the budding relationship between Bulgaria and U.S. Army Europe.

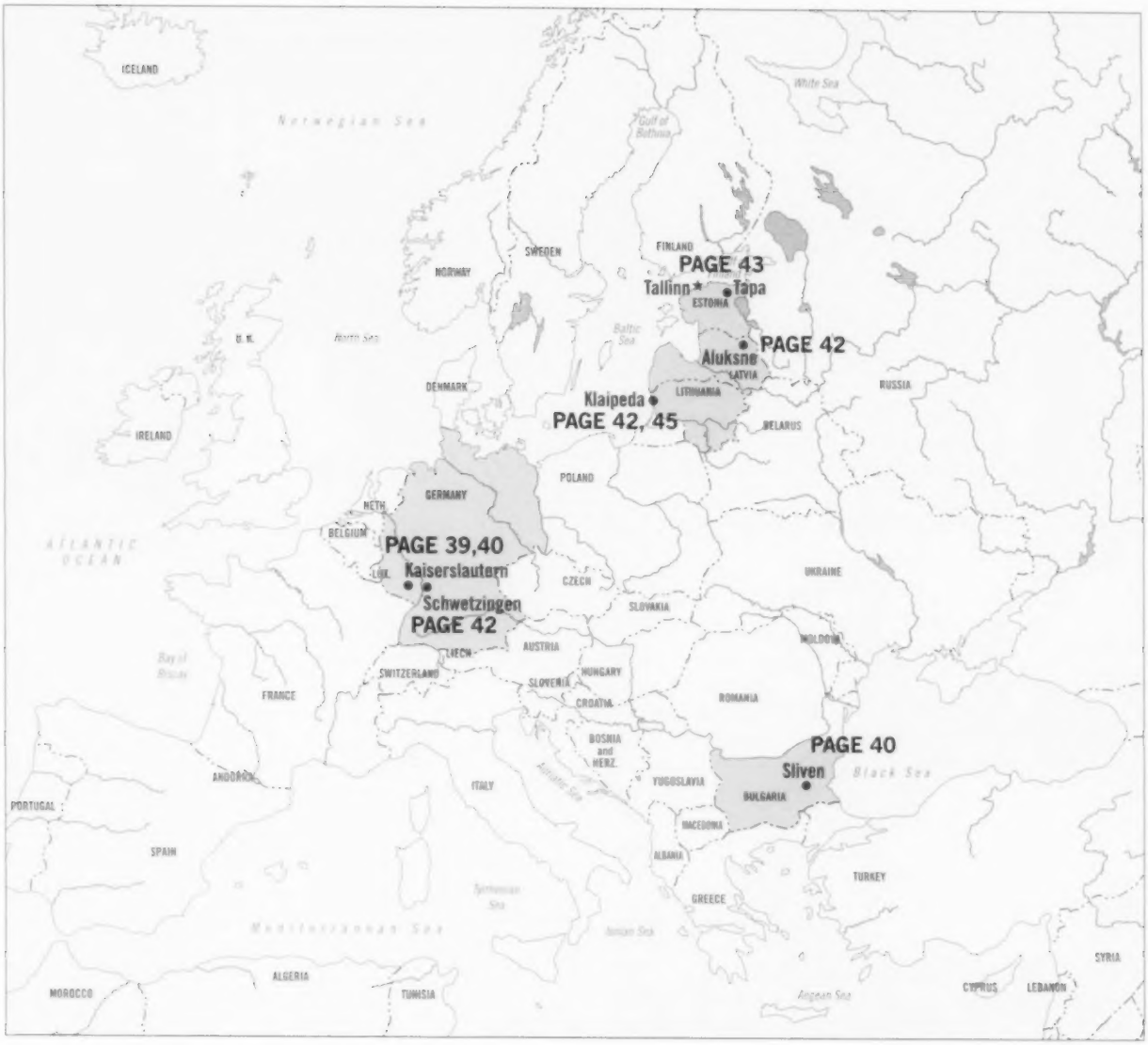
During the exercise, the unit trained with the 37th Transportation Battalion and 18th Engineer Brigade in conducting railhead operations in a safe and professional manner. Prior to Bulwark, the 330th had not completed a deployment exercise involving railhead operations.

The 330th's Base Defense Liaison Teams worked extremely well together and were recognized by the 18th Engineer Brigade for their expertise and hard work.

"We provided six base defense liaison teams and a command and control element for the exercise," Francia said. "The unit conducted vulnerability assessments and built force protection plans for two airfields, three railheads, VIP billeting areas, and routes to and from the training area and Logistics Support Area."

The unit produced an integrated force protection plan that included host nation military police; contractors; and Active, Reserve, and National Guard units from Germany, Alabama, and Illinois, Francia said.

Training received at the Novo Selo training area and throughout the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preparation and conduct of the exercise was invaluable to the 330th ROC.

"This is the first time the unit deployed en masse to conduct training," Peters said. "In the past, we've deployed our four to six member Base Defense Liaison Teams to handle missions of a smaller scope. This time, the full-up, task organized unit deployed, giving us experience that will help us when we deploy to support Operation Enduring Freedom."

This partnership exercise with the Bulgarian military is just one example of the close ties between the Bulgarian and U.S. Military. Bulgaria is also supporting coalition forces in Iraq with a battalion of 480 infantry Soldiers stationed in Karbala, Iraq.

ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS SUPPORT MAJOR EXERCISE IN BALTIC NATIONS

By LTC Jon Dahms
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

ALUKSNE, Latvia — Soldiers from the 7th Army Reserve Command, headquartered in Schwetzingen, Germany, and five other Army Reserve units are supporting international military exercises in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

The Reserve Soldiers have joined troops from 17 nations for a series of exercises designed to provide medical training and assess the participating nations' ability in anti-terrorism measures, search and rescue operations, and disaster response scenarios.

"The 7th ARCOM's role in this exercise is mainly real world support," said SSG Rick Scavetta, Public Affairs Noncommissioned Officer for the International Task Force. "Our Soldiers oversee force protection, media relations, and visitor escorts."

Roughly 2,000 troops will take part in the 15-day RESCUER/Medical Exercise

PHOTO: SSG STEVEN EWALD

Soldiers from the 386th Engineer Battalion, are part of a renovation project at Rytas Children's Orphanage in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Central Europe (MEDCEUR) 2004, in the Baltic Nations and Bulgaria. Military personnel from the United States, Germany, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan are taking part with host nation troops.

"This exercise is basically four exercises rolled into one," said MAJ Chris Baker, a U.S. Army Europe operations officer who led planning for mission. "We have a computer-based scenario that sets the stage for the whole exercise. Woven into this scenario is a medical exercise, a diving exercise, and a search and rescue exercise."

Army Reserve units joining the 7th ARCOM to support the exercise include the 368th Engineer Battalion (Londonderry, N.H.), the 330th Combat Support Hospital, (Millington, Tenn.), 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Denver, Colo.), the 362nd Public Affairs Detachment (Londonderry, N.H.), and the 358th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Salt Lake City, Utah).

In Klaipeda, Lithuania, Soldiers from the 368th Engineer Battalion are renovating an orphanage. Working alongside Lithuanians, the New Hampshire-based Reserve troops are installing new windows and renovating a dining room. Nearby, the engineers are also building a timber trestle bridge to allow year round access for Klaipeda's rural residents to cross a flood plain.

Also in Klaipeda, the 330th CSH is supporting MEDCEUR, the medical portion of the exercise. More than 30 Soldiers from the unit will be working with first responders from the host nation and military medical personnel from 11 other nations in responding to small, medium, and large mass casualty events.

Covering the exercise in all three Baltic nations are members of the 207th, 358th, and 362nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachments.

"We have teams at every location covering all aspects of the exercise," said SFC Jeff Mullett, NCOIC for the 207th.

Mullett and MAJ Curtis Carney, the 207th's commander, are working together with Latvian public affairs representatives in Aluksne, Latvia, providing public affairs support, but also training a Latvian spokesperson to deal with media issues generated as part of the exercise scenario.

"The scenario for the exercise involves terrorists setting forest fires that lead to disasters in each of the Baltic nations," Carney said. "We are preparing a Latvian spokesperson to be the on-camera representative to respond to the computer simulation."

For the host nations, RESCUER / MEDCEUR 2004 (RM04) will provide a real-world assessment of their medical capabilities and ability to respond to both disasters and military contingencies.

In Lithuania, the MEDCEUR exercise will give the multinational force a chance to exchange medical information and techniques while training to deal with emergencies, such as mass-casualty events.

In Tallinn, Estonia, troops will take part in a diving exercise (DIVEX) to test their abilities to handle ordnance threats underwater and salvage operations. Meanwhile, Estonian and Polish troops will coordinate a Search and Rescue exercise (SAREX) near Tapa, Estonia.

During the exercise, troops will also provide humanitarian assistance to host countries. A team of U.S. Army Engineers and Naval Construction Battalions are working on renovation and construction projects in all three Baltic countries.

"Missions like this really give Soldiers a chance to operate in a multinational environment," Scavetta said. "Should they be called upon to deploy on future coalition missions, this experience will pay off."

AMERICAN SAMOA ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS ANSWER THE CALL TO DUTY

By Paul Adams
Army Reserve Public Affairs

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa — With the rugged mountainous terrain and spectacular coastline dotted with many beautiful inlets and bays as a backdrop, approximately 250 Soldiers of America's only Army Reserve ground combat unit, answered the call to duty in a solemn three-and-one-half hour prayer service marking their mobilization in this Asian Pacific tropical island.

In a display of whole island community support, nearly 3000 citizens from local villages, along with friends and family members gathered in the maintenance bay of the soon to be completed new Army Reserve Center to honor the Army Reserve Soldiers of Company's B and C, 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry Regiment.

The newly activated Army Reserve Soldiers will join other Soldiers within the Battalion from Saipan and Guam at Schofield Barracks for additional training this week. The Battalion totals about 575 Soldiers that will be deployed. The 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment will support Hawaii's Army National Guard's 29th Separate Infantry Brigade while deployed overseas.

In addition to inspirational and beautiful hymns sung by five island high school choirs, the Soldiers heard remarks from a host of military and civilian VIPs to include the honorable Governor Togiola T. Tulafono. Tulafono told the Soldiers he was going to introduce bills into the legislature to protect the Soldiers' civilian jobs when they return from duty and to improve pay benefits.

Other speakers mentioned the famed "Go For Broke" regiment of World War II, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, that became the most decorated unit of its size in the war. It is the only battalion-sized unit in the U.S. Army authorized its own shoulder patch.

SGT Lang Lagafuaina, a team leader with first squad, third Platoon, B Company, has been in the unit for eight years and has a cousin in C Company. "It is an honor to be in the unit and carry on

PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS

Ladies from the Pago Pago Department of Public Safety, American Samoa, hold up a sign expressing their feelings for the Soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry to return home safely from their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fifteen soldiers, all policemen and firemen in the department, were honored by the Department in a public ceremony. The Army Reserve Soldiers are dressed in while t-shirts and blue traditional lava lavas.

the "Go For Broke" tradition," Lagafuaina said. "There is no spirit like the 100th spirit, it has brotherhood spirit."

"The Samoan people are extremely patriotic and strive on service to country," said CPT Calvin Fish, commander of B Company. "They take pride in knowing they are part of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry." "They want to be a part of this (mobilization) because they know how significant this is," Fish said. "You can see their sense of urgency."

SSG Malo Faumoina's response illustrated Fish's point. "No more monthly drill, this is the real thing," said Faumoina, who hales from the village of Alofau. "I am proud to wear this last name as a Samoan warrior. To become chief, you have to fight for it, so that's like what I'm doing now, go and fight to maintain Faumoina chief." His father is the former village chief and his uncle is the current village chief.

The passion for being a member of the 100th runs deep in family and historical roots.

SGT Jancey Shimasaki wanted to be in the unit because of his Japanese ancestry. He is half Japanese and half Samoan. "I think my ancestors were fighting on the Japanese side. I had a cousin who was an officer in the Japanese navy," he said. "It's a calling. We are answering the call as the unit did in World War II," he said.

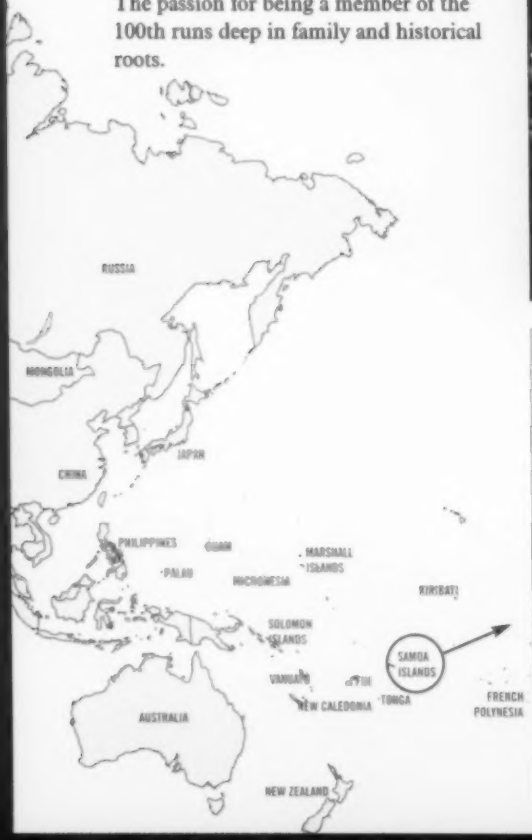
SFC Faaagi Taufeteee summed up the pride the unit members have in the "Go for Broke" tradition. "'Go For Broke' means you give all you got, when you ready to go attack, or whatever you do, you give all you got. The pride of the Army Reserve and the pride of your unit, it's you," Taufetee said.

SGT Sonny Sappa, B Co., 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, monitors a patient with an IV while waiting for medical help at the casualty collection point during the unit's simulated mass casualty exercise.

PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS

Soldiers of B Co., 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, pray during a communion service offered during their pre-deployment preparations at the unit's Army Reserve Center.

PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS



BRIDGE CONNECTS NATIONS

By SPC Monika Comeaux
207th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

KLAIPEDA, Lithuania — The smell of freshly cut wood surrounds the construction site where U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from a New Hampshire engineer unit and engineers from the Lithuanian Army built a timber trestle bridge near the towns of Rumsai and Lauciai, 40 miles southeast of the Lithuanian city of Klaipeda.

According to SSG John B. Zayhowski, noncommissioned officer in charge of the U.S. troops from the 368th Engineer Battalion headquartered in Londonderry, N.H., the bridge will provide easier access for farmers to reach their fields and will considerably shorten local students walk to school.

"The idea for the bridge came from the Lithuanians at the planning stage of the exercise and the blueprints were also made by Lithuanian engineers," said Zayhowski. Before the bridge was built the locals used a makeshift foot bridge and a ford to cross the river.

"This is something we never get to do in America. In the United States we have all steel and concrete structures. Here we work with wood. In times of war a timber bridge is an easy solution," said Zayhowski.

"The new bridge is almost 11 feet wide, and rests on timber pillars," said CPT Dovidavicius Vaidas, the officer in charge of the Lithuanian troops from the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Engineer Company of the Lithuanian army. Vaidas went on to say, "Approximately 220 cubic yards of timber was used for the project. An average size truck can drive across it easily."

This humanitarian project is part of the RESCUER/MEDCEUR 2004 Exercise, and fits right into the exercise's motto: "Security through Partnership.

"The bridge project allowed the Lithuanians and the Americans to work together and build a team," Vaidas said.

He also complimented the American troops on their work ethics. "I liked working with the Americans. The Americans worked very hard, I had no problems with their soldiers whatsoever," said Dovidavicius.

"The real beneficiaries of the bridge are the children of the surrounding communities. Instead of walking 10 miles to get to school the local children will now only have to walk three miles," Dovidavicius explained. "Later on, a dirt road leading to the bridge will also be improved," he added.

Both parties learned from each other. "One interesting thing the American soldiers had was the opportunity to learn from the Lithuanians how to take bark off the lumber with specially sharpened shovels. None of the American soldiers have seen this technique before," Zayhowski said.

"Most of the Lithuanian officers speak English, but this gave them a great opportunity to practice their language skills," said Zayhowski. As the sergeant explained, all Lithuanian officers are required to learn at least one NATO language.

Not only is the bridge a humanitarian assistance project but both sides also look at the bridge as a symbol of the friendship and cooperation that was built between the U.S. Army and the Lithuanian Army. ARM

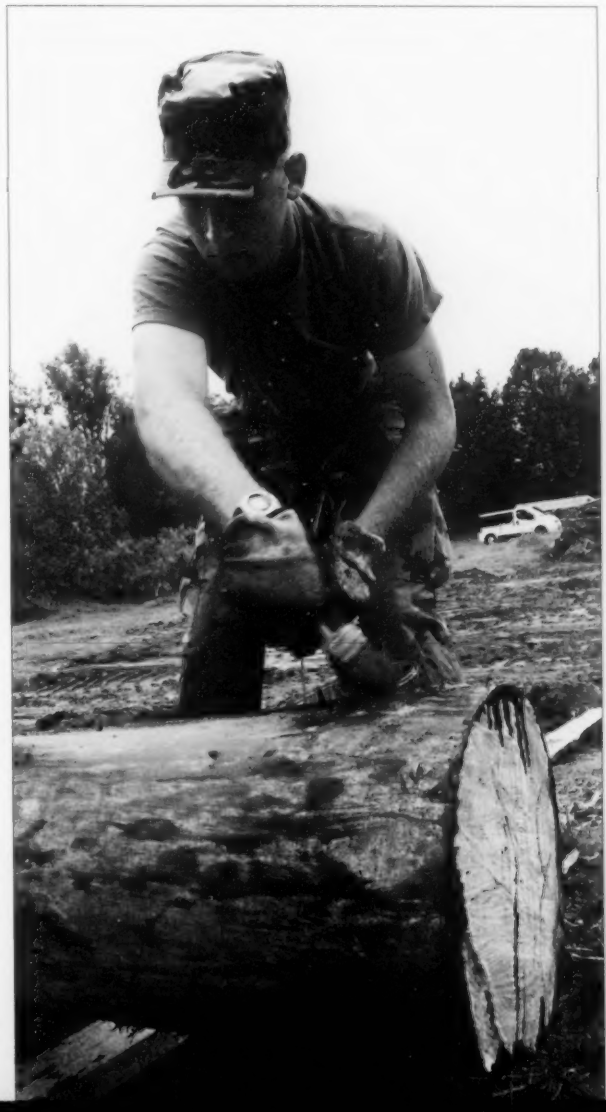


PHOTO: ARMY SPC MONIKA COMEAUX

SPC Alfred J. Harper III, C Company, 368th Engineer Battalion, Rutland, Vt. applies a special sealant to the lumber used for the bridge construction.

KNOW YOUR EMPLOYMENT AND RE-EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Title 38 U.S.C. Chapter 43, The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides the following:

RIGHTS:

1. Prohibits discrimination against those who choose to serve in the "uniformed services."
2. Entitles members to a leave of absence from their civilian employment to serve, either voluntary or involuntary, for up to 5 years of cumulative military service. Use of personal vacation leave is not required.
3. A provision for continuation of coverage under a health plan during the period of military service.
4. Entitles members returning from military service to prompt reinstatement of employment, with seniority, status, and rate of pay as if continuously employed.
5. Assistance through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DVETS) in the U.S. Department of Labor (DoL), if a conflict occurs between the member and employer that cannot be satisfactorily resolved.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Advance notification to the employer, either written or verbally communicated.
2. Serve satisfactorily and be discharged from active duty with an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.
3. Serve for no more than the 5-year cumulative limit.
4. Report back to work and submit for reemployment within the following timelines:
   a. less than 31 days of service, report back no later than the beginning of the first full regularly scheduled work period and eight hours after a period which allows for a safe return,
   b. more than 31 days, but less than 181 days, report back no later than 14 calendar days,
   c. more than 180 days, report back no later than 90 calendar days.

Workplace Tips

DOS AND DON'TS FOR RETURNING TO YOUR CIVILIAN JOB

By Michaella Babrich
Program Manager
Army Reserve Well-Being

Here are some dos and don'ts for returning to your civilian job.

First, become very familiar with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA). This is the law that provides employment and reemployment rights and protection for those having served in the uniformed services. You can find a copy of it on the Well-Being intranet site and on AKO, **https://usarcintra/dcsper/Well-Being/Well-Being_Office_page.htm**.

Next, establish contact with your civilian supervisor as soon as you find out that you're returning home. Perhaps an e-mail or ask your significant other to send word if you're not able to yourself. Just provide a heads up that you're homeward bound and looking forward to being home again. Civilian employers are concerned about your welfare and want you to return home safe and sound. Civilian employers are proud of their Army Reserve Soldiers' service to our country and take your absence seriously.

Upon return to your home, follow-up with a phone call to your supervisor to schedule a visit during which you will be able to catch up on what's been going on in the work environment. During this visit, you can discuss the timing of your return and perhaps what are some of the projects that you'll be working on at that time. Make sure to discuss what the process is for getting back on the payroll, signing up for health insurance, and re-starting your pension/investment plan if you have one.

Afterwards, take time to reconnect with your peers and colleagues, too. There may have been baby arrivals, weddings, promotions, graduations, etc. Your colleagues will want to shake your hand because they are also glad you're home. Take time for these moments for your sake and theirs because it re-establishes important connections for everyone.

Do not just show up. Perhaps someone has been filling in for you and is in the middle of a project or perhaps there has been an organizational change that affects your area. Employers, like the military, must adapt and improvise when a change in staffing occurs, so just showing up unexpectedly will not send a positive message, nor will it help you to re-establish connections. Both you and your employer need to prepare for your return.

Additionally, after your return home, you may want to practice going to your place of employment. Perhaps there has been considerable construction or property development on your route and the usual commute is not so usual anymore. Re-acclimating to the weather may have to occur, also. If it is winter time and you've been in a desert environment, but live in the northeast, the commute will be slightly different now.

Whether you have been serving your country one month or one year, your absence from your civilian job causes your employers and colleagues to have to adapt and improvise. These are two qualities that our Army has nurtured in you, so share some of your training with your employers by keeping them and yourself in the loop so each may be aware of the others adaptations and improvisations during your absence. By keeping the lines of communication open, you will be able to reintegrate much more smoothly back into your civilian job. ARM

Dear Army Reserve Soldiers and your families:

Welcome Home, Warriors! We thank God you are home again with your families and friends. Well done!

Your deployment has been long and difficult, but your valiant efforts have contributed greatly to the cause of freedom. I am very proud of what you have done, and I know your family and friends back home share that pride.

I want you to know how important you are to your unit and the Army Reserve. The same "buddy system" we use on the battlefield is important after a deployment, too. A simple phone call or e-mail asking, "How are you doing?" may help a fellow Soldier on a difficult day. Soldiers look out for each other – on deployment and at home, as well.

If your employer, like many around the country, has been supportive of you and your family during your deployment, I encourage you to say "thank you" in a tangible way. Recommend your boss for a Patriot Award from the National Committee on Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). You can submit the application online at www.esgr.org.

Your friends and family need you – and so do we. Your unit needs your experience and leadership as it begins to reconstitute. Our Nation is still at war and, even at home, your service is still valued.

Thank you, again, for serving your country in a time of need. May God bless you, your family, your employers and the United States of America.

James R. Helmly
Lieutenant General, US Army
Chief, Army Reserve

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

PROFOUND CHANGE

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